

If you want village life, stay in the city EATURES, PAGE 16



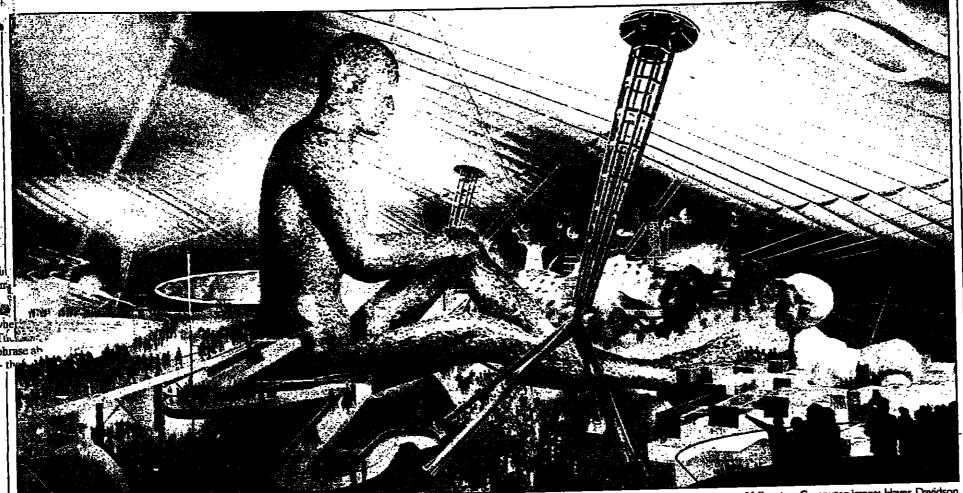
YOU WHAT TO do with 45m The answer's in Pandora's Box

FOWLER'S Cup of SORROW World cup worr for Liverpool star



DIVISION SON INDEPE

Unveiled: Blair's theme park for the Millennium



Inside the Millennium Dome 'Body Zone': the human figure, with an observation platform in the head, will be taller than the Statue of Liberty Computer image: Hayes Davidson

PM promises Greenwich extravaganza will be the envy of the world

By David Lister

Arts I lews Editor

inte N LANGUAGE emotional and at the times apocalyptic for what remains in essence a theme park, the Prime Minister yesterday unveiled some of the contents of the Millennium Dome.

They include a 79-ft high genderless body that visitors will enter via the waist and exit via the heel, a "floatercoaster" bed, on which to relax, a spiritual garden, in which to reflect, and a climactic show designed by the man behind the stadium extravaganzas of U2 and The Rolling Stones, in which to commune.

Though Mr Blair and Mr Mandelson were careful never to utter the words theme park, the Dome as out- in an ignoble, unpatriotic and nihilistic lined yesterday will have Disneyesque tradition.

elements, promising a highly enjoyable day out with educational, spiritual and community aspects approached through rides, boats, moving pavements and cyberspace.

It will be, promised Mr Blair, "the envy of the world ... Picture the scene. The clock strikes midnight on 31 December 1999. The eyes of the world turn to a spot where the new millennium begins - the Meridian line at Greenwich. This is Britain's opportunity to greet the world with a celebration that is so bold, so beautiful, so inspiring that it embodies at once the spirit of confidence and adventure in Britain and the spir-

it of the future of the world." Getting his aggro in first, Mr Blair castigated any doubters, placing them

"It does not surprise me," he said, The Dome will house: "that the cynics have rubbished the

idea. They are in good company. They are part of an inglorious strand of British history: like those who said St Paul's would be a calamity, that the 1851 exhibition would have no visitors and that the 1951 Festival of Britain would never be finished on time.

"It's easy to say 'don't do something'. To say that it won't be done on time. That it costs too much. That no one will visit it. It takes little courage to say no to a new idea."

Unveiling models of the contents for around half of the zones, Mr Blair disclosed that businesses which have so far pledged their backing include Tesco, BSkyB, Manpower and BT. A sum of £75m has been raised so far, half of the sponsorship target.

■ The Body Zone - "A voyage into the most fascinating and complex object in the world - the human body"; ■ Spirit Level - "A space for spiritual reflection that recognises the formative influence of Christianity in the Western world and the presence of other religious beliefs":

■ Licensed to Skill and the Learning Curve - "The Learning Curve explores the classroom of the future while in Licensed to Skill, visitors will see how they meet the career challenges of the

■ Dreamscape - "Visitors float along

a river of dreams; ■ Serious Play – "A moving pavement into the world of play with multi-media and a cinematic experience. ■ Living Island – "Living Island

takes visitors on a journey to a typical seaside resort - with surprises in store as the day trippers start to explore the difference they can make to our environment through everyday

choices". The attractions will be ranged in a circle around the performance area at the heart of the 20-acre space, which will feature a show designed by impresario Mark Fisher and rock star Peter Gabriel, with live performers and "stunning" visual effects repeated

throughout each day. While rock music and visual special effects will certainly feature, it remains unclear as to which other performing arts or symbols of British

culture will find a home in the Dome. Special report, pages 8 and 9 Leading article, page 18

Princess Margaret suffers stroke on holiday island

By Andrew Buncomb

PRINCESS MARGARET was last night recovering in a Caribbean hospital after suffering a mild stroke.

The Queen's 67-year-old sister was taken ill on the island of Mustique, where she had been holidaying for three weeks. After treatment at the island's surgery she was flown by air ambulance to Barbados.

Witnesses said the Princess, 11th in line to the throne, was well enough to walk onto the plane and last night she was said to be in a stable condition. It is understood she has suffered no serious paralysis.

Mustique Company, which runs the island, said: "She was able to walk from her car across the Tarmac to the plane. She was also sitting on the plane, there was no need for a stretcher."

Princess Margaret, four years younger than the Queen. was well known as a heavy smoker who used to get through

She has suffered a series of health scares, one of the most serious being in 1985 when she was admitted to hospital for an operation to remove part of her lung. The section removed

turned out to be non-malignant. Despite her operation she failed to give up smoking immediately, although she did cut

down to 30 cigarettes a day. But ill-health has dogged the Princess, who suffered a nervous breakdown in the 70s. In May



days of engagements with a "feverish cold" and in late November with a "feverish infection". In January 1993 she was Ken Will, spokesman for the admitted to hospital with pneu-

In this latest episode, the Princess fell ill while being entertained by friends at their holiday home. Medical staff were immediately called to help her and she was taken to a nearby doctor's surgery for treatment.

The Queen yesterday carried on her normal engagements 60 cigarettes a day, though she and made no reference to her has since given up. Cigarette sister's condition. Lord Snowsmoking is widely recognised as don, from whom the Princess is one of the risk factors associated divorced, was said to be "most concerned™ and has been in touch with the couple's children, Viscount Linley and Lady Sarah

> The Princess will be flow back to Britain when she is well enough for the long journey. Loyalty and duty, page 3

Chatto.



Greer paid £1/2m for new 'Eunuch'

y Paul McCann ledia Correspondent

felong Learning

SERMAINE GREER is to in battle with the so-called ew Feminism after selling the equel to her seminal book The emale Eunuch for £500,000. After a bidding war between even publishers on Monday the minist icon's agent sold the

ights to The Whole Woman to Joubleday Publishing. The pok will be published next ear - 30 years after The Female which made Greer a housefold name. in the new book she is exected to enter the feminist deate on behalf of an older

eneration of feminists who clieve women still have much o fight for. "She is looking at the routes feminism has taken, and taken us, over the last 30 lears," says Greer's literary igent Emma Party. "It will be provocative, but she won't malyse every individual feminist vriter and their ideas in turn." In recent years a new generation of feminist thinkers like Natasha Walter, Naomi Wolf



Greer: 'provocative'

and Katie Roiphe have argued for a less strident feminism. Some believe that the focus of the fight for female equality should now be restricted to the workplace. And that the personal is not necessarily political.

Another issue to be covered by the book is the failure of feminism adequately to deal with motherhood. In a major speech last year Greer argued that women had been de-sexed by Nineties culture: "The 1969 female eunuch was nothing but womb," she said. "The 1997 INSIDE GUIDE: WEATHER, P2 • CROSSWORDS, P28 AND EYE P10 • TODAY'S TELEVISION, EYE P12 • FULL CONTENTS, P2 female eunuch has no womb."

Today's news

Cleared too late

A SOMALI sailor who was hanged 46 years ago for murder had his conviction quashed by the Court of Appeal yesterday. The guilty verdict against Mahmood Mattan's was overturned after the introduction of new evidence. His widow was in court for the ruling. Page 2

Connery hits out

SEAN CONNERY yesterday spoke of his disappointment at not being knighted as the row over the star's apparent snub grew.

IRA 'not to blame'

THE Northern Ireland peace talks continued yesterday as the British Government signalled it did not hold the IRA responsible for the recent bombings.

Tom Cruise top

TOM CRUISE has topped the movie industry's latest list of the most bankable film

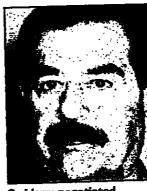
Back at the UN, returning chief gets a hero's welcome

By David Usborne in New York

ON A DAY of rare euphoria at United Nations headquarters, the Security Council yesterday offered a preliminary endorsement of the agreement negotiated by the Secretary-General, Kofi Annan, with Iraq on weapons inspections and averting military action by Britain and the United States.

"We believe that this agreement is a step in the right direction," the US Ambassador to the UN, Bill Richardson, remarked after a two-hour meeting of the Security Council with Mr Annan. Mr Richardson added, however, that Washington would still be seeking clarification on portions of the

agreement. Mr Richardson insisted also that the value of the deal guaranteeing access by UN inspectors to presidential sites would be clear only after it was put to the test. "We want to see clarification and verification. We want to see it implemented. complied with and enforced." Mr Annan voiced confi-



dence that once all clarifications are given, he will have "strong and unanimous Council support" for the agreement. Noting that it is the first such pact to have been negotiated with Saddam Hussein himself, he also expressed optimism that it would be honoured by Iraq.

Before briefing the Council on his Baghdad mission, Mr Annan was treated to a stirring hero's welcome in the main foyer of the UN building where hundreds of staff had gathered to greet and to applaud him. A beaming Mr Annan declared:

"This is a wonderful example of what the United Nations should be". He paid fulsome tribute to London and Washington: "I will start by thanking President Clinton and Prime Minister Blair for being perfect UN peacekeepers . . . in the sense that we taught our peacekeepers the best way to use force is to show it in order not to use it."

While stressing the need to see it tested, the British Ambassador, Sir John Weston, welcomed the Annan package. He said that the Council will begin work today on a new resolution to reinforce the agreement that ought to allow us to put our relationship with Iraq on a more secure footing".

The clarification sought by Washington pertains in part to the language used in the agreement, notably a paragraph stressing that the inspectors "respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Iraq". Mr Richardson said: "Our concern is Saddam Hussein, whether he will find loopholes in any of the language".

Iraq crisis, page 12

1992 she had to cancel several

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TOMORROW



Who said satire was dead?

Not Jeremy Hardy, Rory **Bremner or Chris Morris**

Plus

- Terence Stamp: A career lost, a life rekindled
- Education+: Be a professor thanks to Boots the Chemist

Judge clears man who was hanged

By Jason Bennetto Crime Correspondent

A SOMALI sailor, who was hanged 46 years ago for murdering a shopkeeper, was yesterday cleared of the crime - the first person to have their conviction quashed in Britain after being executed.

The family of Mahmood Hussein Mattan, who was hanged in Cardiff jail in 1952, are expected to be awarded compensation estimated between £500,000 and £750,000.

South Wales police are also to re-open their murder investigation after evidence emerged to suggest that a suspect, who was later convicted of a similar crime, was ignored. The Court of Appeal quashed the conviction after hearing evidence that the key witness in Mattan's murder trial was unreliable.

Mr Mattan, 28, was hanged after being convicted of murdering pawnbroker Lily Volpert. Her throat was cut and The decision to overturn

fendant of a crime.

the conviction follows 46 years

of campaigning by Mr Mattan's

widow, Laura, her family, and

campaigners. Previous convic-

tions involving the death penal-

ty have only be given a pardon,

which does not clear the de-

£100 taken in an attack at her shop in the city's docklands.

The Crown yesterday conceded that the witness central to the conviction - Harold Cover, now 78 - was not acredible". Descriptions given by Mr Cover, who was later convicted of attempting to murder his daughter, did not match Mr Mattan. Mr Cover, who was in court yesterday, denies that he killed Miss Volpert.

It has also just emerged that another Somali sailor, Tahir Gass, whom Mr Cover had originally said had been in the area at the time of the murder, was arrested within hours of Miss Volpert's killing. He left the country but was convicted in 1954 of murdering a farmhand by cutting his throat.

Outside court Bernard De Maid, the family's solicitor, said his clients feelings were one of "massive, massive relief".

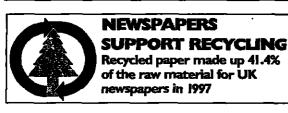


Laura Mattan with supporters after her husband (above left) was cleared of murder at the Court of Appeal 46 years after he was hanged at Cardiff jail Photograph: Peter Jordan

Widow tells of racial hatred that led to a 'legalised lynching'

CONTENTS

Foreign Health Visual Arts Features Leader & letters Obituaries Business Unit Trusts Crosswords TV & radio



By Jason Bennetto

IT TOOK just three months of courting before Laura Williams, a 17-year-old Welsh girl, and Mahmood Mattan, a Somali merchant seaman, were wed.

But the year was 1945 and from the start the couple were vilified by their neighbours in the Cardiff community of Tiger Bay and forced to live apart. She was abused as a "black man's whore", he was hated for being

speak to them.

"[Mahmood] was the best thing that happened to me in my life. He made me feel like a queen," recalled Mrs Mattan. now 68 and suffering from cancer. "People already called me names because I came from the Valleys. When I married Mahmood I was told I had brought shame on the community."

The couple had two children, but within seven years she was

only three families who would victed her 29-year-old husband forced to admit they got it of slashing the throat of a shopkeeper, and stealing £100.

He stood little chance in his trial, which lasted three days. The jury was out for little more than 90 minutes, during which time the defence barrister was heard to call his client a "semicivilised savage". The conviction was based on a now discredited witness and Mr Mattan was

hanged seven weeks later. Yesterday, after 46 years of wrong and quash the conviction.

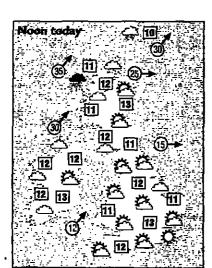
Mrs Mattan's MP, Rhodri Morgan, yesterday described the affair as "an outrageous act of racial discrimination" and the "nearest thing to a legalised lynching you could get".

He went on: "The case also forces us in south Wales to rethink our somewhat complacent attitudes about Cardiff's history as a cosmopolitan melting pot where blacks and whites lived

Remembering the days leadwhere there was a notice on the ing up to the execution, Mrs prison gates that the execution Mattan, said: "I visited Mahhad taken place." mood every day in prison and Mr Mattan's case was the

first to be referred to the Court took the children along as well. The NSPCC told me not to of Appeal by the newly formed but he wanted to see his sons. Criminal Cases Review Com-We believed that the police mission. The commission has already referred the case of would get the person who killed Miss Volpert right up until the Derek Bentley, hanged in 1953 end. Because of this, I never said for the murder of a policeman, goodbye to Mahmood. The day to the courts, and is due to debefore the execution we talked cide on James Hanratty, who with the children. The next day was hanged 35 years ago for the an immigrant, and there were made a widow after a court con- campaigning, the courts were happily together in Tiger Bay." I arrived at Cardiff prison, A6 murder in about a month

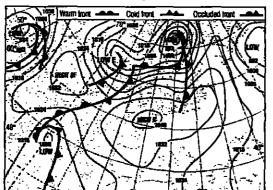
WEATHER



Eastern Scotland and south-eastern parts of Northern trekand will be mostly dry and bright, but western Scotland and the rest of Northern Ireland will be breezy with patchy drizzle giving way to a heavier spell western coasts of Wales and south-west England will see occasional cloud and local mist, but it should remain dry with a few sunry breaks. The rest of England and Wales will have another dry and mild day with good spells of sunshine.

Outlook for the next few days Tomorrow, a belt of rain will cross all parts of the UK, reaching East Anglia and the south-east towards evening. Behind the rain-belt it will turn slightly colder with sunny spells and showers - some of these showers turning to snow over Scotland by the end of the day. Friday and the weekend will be much colder everywhere with broken cloud, a little sunshine at times, but also some fairly heavy snow showers.

Atlantic chart, noon today



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High tides

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Sun & moon

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World weather

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WILLIAM **HARTSTON** WEATHER WISE

First we saw the film Twister, then we read about the real-life tornado that swept through Selsey earlier this year, and now news of a swarm of tornadoes which have killed at least 38 people in Florida. These most vicious of weather phenomena seem to have whirled into fashion, yet - apart from the fact that this has been the worst tortory - there is nothing especially unusual about the tornado activity this year. Unless you count all the mistakes

in the above-mentioned film. Tornadoes occur when a column of warm air gets caught below a layer of cold air, above which a strong cold wind is blowing. The warm air rises, forming a funnel through its cold surroundings; it is replaced by more warm air at ground level, which is in turn sucked up as the air at the top of the funnel is blown away. Give the whole apparatus a

gular momentum. Parts of the United States have just the right climatic conditions favouring the production of tornadoes. where warm, moist air from the Gulf of Mexico or the Caribbean meets cool air coming down from Canada. The direction of these air masses even provides the twist needed to start it all off.

Now here are some of the things that you may not have known about tornadoes and related weather disasters:

The largest number of deaths from a single tornado in America is usually given as the 698 killed in 1925 by a tomado that stretched for 219 miles. This was probably, however, not a single tornado but a family of them coming close on one another, similar to the ones that have just hit Florida.

In the 1980s, 521 Americans were killed by tornadoes, but 726 were killed by lightning. In Ohio, six per cent of all

nado disaster in Florida's his deaths by lightning happen as the victims are playing golf. The country that experiences the most tornadoes per

unit area is Britain. More Americans are killed by tornadoes in April than in any other month.

You cannot (though they did in the film) assess the rating of a tornado until after it is over and the damage is assessed.

A house (despite Dorothy's experience in The Wizard of Oz) cannot be lifted bodily by a tornado. It will collapse first.

. A car would not sucked straight up into the funnel of a

small twist, and it will whirl tornado; it would rise and move through the air sideways too. away with ever-increasing an-Caravan parks seem to at-

tract more than their fair share of tornadoes only because mobile homes blow over more easily than houses. The same tornado that might cause havoc among caravans could pass through a built-up area without anyone bothering to record it. Nobody has been killed by

a tornado in California. Tornadoes turn anti-clockwise in the northern hemisphere - or to put it another

way, cyclones turn cyclonically. The tornadoes in the film Twister were made by randommovement and vortex-creation computer programs. No wind was involved.

A large truck would not be picked up by a tornado. It would be blown over and twisted out of shape. Even a car would first capsize before flying through the air.

The average age of Americans killed by tornadoes is 45. the average American killed by lightning is only 30.

More than twice as man men as women are killed by ex-

treme weather in America. Although Florida has more tornadoes per square mile than any other American state, until this week they were mostly small ones.

■ Get your hats, coats, gloves scarves and perhaps even snow shoes out. The Met Office predicts that the real winter will finally arrive with icy arcti winds at the weekend, Well, it's good news for the Scottish ski slopes anyway.

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lised lynching

Ma'am darling: the princess driven by loyalty and duty

ONE OF the Queen's greatest fears, according to her friends, is that the Queen Mother and Princess Margaret will die one soon after the other, leaving her alone. The three Windsor women are very close, and it has not been a good year for them.

Princess Margaret was once the Queen's greatest worry. Now she is one of her greatest supporters, among the last of a dwindling band of people who have been close to the Queen since before she ascended the throne,

The Princess's friends say her qualities are great, but, as even they - or most of them - will admit, so too are her defects. There is little in between. She either hates things or loves them. Everything is theatrical, with that little touch of vulgar taste she shares with the other women in her family; her thank you letters, so purple they could be from Liberace; her Sevres blue drawing room at 1A Clock Court, her apartment at Kensington Palace; the pair est friends still call her "Ma'am darling". of gilded blackamoors either side of its main doors.

To her friends she is a real friend. "She is probably the loyalest friend you could have, once she's decided she likes you," says Lady Elizabeth Cavendish. Her little band of pals constantly cossets her, arranging her travels, paying for her social life - she doesn't carry a cheque book and one has to do them. doesn't have a credit card - and organising entertainments to keep her happy.

She likes to go and stay with them for the weekend. Her lady-in-waiting, Annabel ist's request for an interview, she passed

Dangers of flight home

will carry risks, an expert in aviation

medicine said last night. The cabin pres-

arrange an invitation. Invariably this gets her hosts flustered. One had her bedroom rewired so the Princess could use her Carmen rollers. But the Princess doesn't seem to notice. What she enjoys most, they all confirm, is lighting fires and dead-heading the roses with

shiny secateurs. She takes against people and cannot she should be safe to travel in a few

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Section 8

Appendique.

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mind is made up. She never received the Duchess of Windsor, although her mother eventually did, on the occasion of the Duke's funeral in 1972. She refuses to go and stay with Jocelyn Stevens because his ex-wife. Janie, is one of her oldest friends and was given Princess Margaret's children's nursery at Kensington Palace to use as her own flat.

Sharp-witted rather than deeply intelligent, the Princess can also be sharp tongued. She demands obeisance. Every-

IN THE NEWS **PRINCESS MARGARET**

one calls her Ma'am, and even her clos-She has a nose for anyone trying to be overfamiliar, turning her head away as if she had encountered a dog mess. As one of her occasional dates says: "She can be unbelievably rude. Quite takes your breath away." She still does more royal engagements than most people might imagine. These are B list jobs, perhaps, but some-

Indeed, her loyalty to her sovereign is, even to her enemies, her single greatest virtue. Recently, turning down a journal-Whitehead, rings up ahead of time to on a message through her friend, Lady

Penn. "Tell her," she said, "that everything I do is to Princess Margaret's flight back to Britain support the Queen and to help her." They speak on

sure, normally set at the equivalent of a the telephone every height of around 7,000ft, will mean day and take note thinner air and less oxygen. of each other's Dr Ian Perry said it was essential that small wishes. her condition was stable and getting Princess Margaret better rather than worse and that the recently gave her cause was understood before the flight elder sister five was attempted. "It might be better to powder puffs for fly a top-rate neurologist out to her," he Christmas. It's not said. Normally, with standard treatment, the sort of thing she would get from be budged once her days, especially if the stroke was mild.



Margaret: Sharp-witted rather than deeply intelligent, she also has a sharp tongue Photograph: Charles Donnelly

The health warnings Princess Margaret's first big health scare came in January 1985 when she was admitted to hospital for an operation to have part of her lung removed. Although she gave up her 60-a-day smoking habit immediately following the operation, within a few months she was back to a packet and a half a day. In more recent years, she has been continually dogged by ill-health. In May 1992 she was forced to cancel several days of engagements as a result of a "feverish cold" and again in November of that year she was struck down by a "feverish infection". In January 1993, she was admitted to the King Edward VII Hospital in London suffering from pneumonia. Her last public appearance was earlier this month when she visited the Queen Mother after her hip replacement operation.

Mustique's mystique

The island of Mustique in the Caribbean was bought by Colin Tennant in 1959. Ten years later. he created the Mustique Company, which owns the island and rents out its luxury villas. The company has 50 shareholders and in recent times they have been concerned that the demands and tastes of wealthy Americans could irrevocably change Mustique's Image. "There is something very special and 'English' about Mustique which we want to retain," the island's manager, Brian Alexander, told the Times last May. "The Americans expect to find the same things they would in Florida resorts. We don't want a golf course, but we do want to keep the cricket pitch, for example." The company was spending more than £250,000 on a marketing drive to attract more holidaymakers from the UK and had even set up a satellite station to receive BBC and Sky television programmes. A villa sleeping two people costs from just under £2,000 a week to rent. A larger villa, such as the one owned by Patrick Lichfield, costs around £12,000 a week.

Whatever happened to Roddy? The man made famous by being Princess Margaret's escort celebrated his 50th birthday last year. Married with three children, he lives in a 14th-century former pub in Oxfordshire. He has a full-time landscape design business and lectures, writes and makes television series about garden design. He has never spoken publicly about his relationship with Princess Margaret despite lucrative offers from newspapers and publishers. Journalists are warned in advance of meeting him that the subject is off limits.

Some fascinating Facts She was born in Glamis Castle, making her the first royal child to be born in Scotland for more than 300 years. The registration of her birth was delayed for several days in order to avoid her being numbered 13 in the parish register. In 1954, she directed a West End play called The Frog. it sank without trace. In 1978 she became the first royal to divorce

Tom Cruise tops the bankability rankings

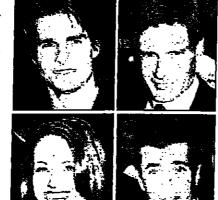
By Paul McCann Media Correspondent

TOM CRUISE has topped the movie industry bible's list of the greatest film stars in the world, not because of his acting talent or the quality of his films, but because of his "bankability". The Hollywood Reporter has published

its Star Power list for the first time in three years, a listing from nought to 100 of the power which Hollywood's major stars have to get films made that make money. Cruise just edges ahead of Harrison Ford with 100 points to Ford's 99. Behind them come Mel Gibson (98 points), Tom Hanks (97) and Brad Pitt (96). The highest ranking woman on the list is Jodie Foster who at number 10 on the list gets a 93.82

Those on the top of the Star Power list are those who can get their movies made regardless of the cost, the genre of film, who the director of the film is or what the script is like. They are stars whose name on a reel gets it sold across the globe without film distributors even watching the

The highest ranking British star on the list is Sean Connery who gets a 88.32 rating to come in as 18th most powerful star



Star turns: (clockwise from top left), Tom Cruise heads the list followed by Harrison Ford and Mei Gibson. Jodie Foster is the highest ranked woman

in the movie firmament. This ranks Connery above American stars like Michael Douglas, Demi Moore and even Titanic's Leonardo di Caprio. The next Brit on the list is fellow Bond actor Pierce Brosnan who is 33 on the list. Fellow Celt Anthony Hopkins comes in at three places below with

a 76.88 rating. Emma Thompson is Britain's highest ranking female and comes in above stars like Madonna and Whoopi Goldberg.

Although some movers in Hollywood have been talking up the importance of scripts and directors in recent years, others disagree: "Star power gets your movies made and gets your movies sold," says Greg Coote, president of Village Roadshow pictures. "The marketing becomes easier. The ancillaries - TV, video - become easier to

The Hollywood Reporter's list is scarily comprehensive and pulls no punches with an actor's ego. Nick Nolte languishes as the 100th most powerful star in Hollywood and yet he gets 55.38 points and is followed by 300 lesser known stars.

The list was compiled by polling the movie industry's film buyers, executives, producers and distributors on how each star would guarantee financing and overseas

"This list is used as a tool in Hollywood," says Jeff Kaye, European bureau chief for the Hollywood Reporter, "especially when execs are trying to guess who to cast in films they want to do well overseas. They will look at the Hollywood Reporter's rankings."

By the time the concert was over, Noel Gallagher was in sufficiently mellow mood to confound his bad boy image by

At a pre-concert press conparently, was a joke. Mr Gallagher made this clear by saving: "Someone who looks a plant pots in the hotel lobby and

we'll probably get arrested." ing its way through "several" passenger complaints.

- TAMESH MICHABL • ILLE PATRICK **● GEORGE** ● KAZ & DAVE ● RACHE WILLIAM JACK **UNCLE IOHN** MUM & DAD • CLIVE LISA ALISON ELKABETH ● CHARLOTTE AHTINAMAZ . ● UNCLETOM

*Oasis go over the top down under

By Steven Vines in Hong Kong

BY THE demanding standards of bad behaviour which the rock group Oasis have set for themselves, they were a model of restraint during a brief concert appearance in Hong Kong. The audience suffered no more than minimal abuse, Noel Gallagher only threatened to walk off the stage once, and they only

hour or so. But impeccable behaviour was clearly a strain. It therefore came as no surprise that they felt the need to let off steam and cause a degree of mayhem when jetting out of the former

kept the fans waiting for an

colony to continue their tour in Perth, Australia.

Occupying six business class seats on Cathay Pacific flight CX171 which arrived in Perth on Monday night, they alarmed fellow passengers, who complained of "noisy, disruptive and abusive behaviour." Staff attempting to enforce

the smoking ban on the flight were also subjected to abuse. The band and their entourage were reported to have boarded the flight with the benefit of alcoholic fortification. They were rowdy more or less from the moment they got on

the plane. One report, which Cathay in Hong Kong says it is unable to confirm, states that the Captain considered diverting the flight before arriving in Perth so that the disruptive passengers could be unloaded.

A Cathay spokesman in Sydney said the airline was not prepared to carry members of Oasis again unless they furnished a promise of "adult behaviour". At Cathay headquarters a spokesman said: "We reserve the right to accept

or not accept passengers." It is not known whether the Gallagher brothers, Noel and Liam, were directly involved in the disruption. During the 90minute Oasis concert, they gave indirect warning of what was to come on flight CX171 by of-

fering a spirited rendition of *Cigarettes And Alcohol".

actually thanking the audience.

ference he spoke about how the group were planning to "trash the hotel room and throw TVs through windows". This, apbit like us will knock over some

Cathay Pacific is still plough-

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Noble gesture: The singer Sir Elton John and his mother, Sheila Farebrother, after his investiture yesterday at Buckingham Palace. 'Candle in the Wind, his tribute to Diana, Princess of Wales, set a world record for sales of a single; Pandora's Box, page 19Photograph: Richard Young/Rex Features

'Fixer' jailed for airport bombing

Crime Correspondent

AN IRA "fixer" who helped other men fire Semtex mortar bombs on Heathrow Airport was jailed for 20 years yesterday.

Michael Gallagher, 55, provided "vital" back-up to the Provisionals' active service unit which could have left hundreds dead if the bombs had gone off in the attack in March 1994.

The Glaswegian-born father of three was caught after a two-and-a-half year surveillance operation, involving the Anti-Terrorist Branch, Special Branch and MI5, which followed a tip off-from a neighbour who saw men wearing rubber gloves working in a garage.

Three batches of homemade missiles, packed with Semtex, were fired into the air-

launchers close to the perimeter fence, over five days. One landed on Terminal Four's roof, packed with travellers, while another narrowly missed six cleaners. They all failed to go off.

The attack was widely seen as a blunt verdict on the Downing Street peace declaration four months earlier.

A jury at Woolwich Crown Court, London, convicted Gallagher by 11-1 of conspiring to cause explosions. Mr Justice Richard Tucker told him: "This series of attacks resulted in enormous disruption of services and it was in my view purely fortuitous that there was no injury or loss of life or extensive damage to aircraft, to runways or to terminal buildings."

Gallagher had rented a garage in which a vehicle and bombs were prepared. "Your role may have been a lesser one but it was nevertheless an important one without which this operation could not have been mounted," the judge said.

He praised Mr Garneys, who notified the police after he became suspicious of activities at the lock-up garage near his home in West Hampstead. An Irishman had knocked at

his home and asked him to move his car, which was block-

ing a garage entrance. Mr Garneys noticed that the men kept the garage doors closed to prevent him seeing inside. He saw a second man wearing blue rubber gloves holding the garage doors open.

He subsequently discovered the men were working there at night. It was later believed they had been assembling the missiles and launchers then.

Undercover officers staked out the premises and bugged a

Gallagher was often tailed around London, and during frequent visits to Northern Ireland and on a trip to Dublin. On one day alone he was followed by 29 operatives as he headed across London to meet someone police are convinced was a leading Provisional.

Hundreds of his conversa tions at his flat were recorded. Forensic scientists had uncovered a wealth of circumstantial evidence and forensic evidence pointed to Gallagher being a contributor to the Heathrow at-

He was also a self-confessed benefit cheat.

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THE DRIVE OF YOUR LIFE

Ulster talks crawl along

By David McKittrick Ireland Correspondent

THE Northern Ireland peace process edged gingerly along vesterday with reportedly useful political talks and signals from the government that it does not hold the IRA to blame for recent hombings.

Tensions appeared to case somewhat in the multi-party talks as parties discussed the ossible shape of new north south institutions in a new political arrangement.

But at the same time the RUC and army cranked up security in some areas in the wake of the republican bombings which caused widespread damage in the Protestant towns of Moira and Portadown. Political development min-

ister Paul Murphy said the Moira bomb appeared to have been carried out by the breakaway Continuity army council rather than the mainstream IRA, adding: "As far as we know the IRA ceasefire is intact." The Portadown attack was still under investigation, he said.

Both Sinn Fein and the IRA, meanwhile, have been denying IRA involvement in eiprocess because of previous



yesterday with Sinn Fein

IRA violence, but remained politically active yesterday with a meeting between party leaders and the Taoiseach, Bertie

Mr Murphy said that yesterday and on Monday the political talks had been "very positive, very structured, very hopeful and very encouraging. One of the talks participants, David Ervine of the Progressive Unionist party, advanced the heory that the IRA was split He added: "It is a position which we perhaps always knew was coming, but we don't know. the size of the split so we have got to wait and sec." The PUP also reiterated its warning that the ceasefire maintained by its parent paramilitary organisation, the Ulster Volunteer Force, was in danger following

the republican bombings. ■ The Home Secretary is scrapping the power to issue exclusion orders against alleged terrorists from Northern Ireland entering mainland Britain, writes Colin Brown. Jack Straw said in a Commons written answer he was rejecting the advice of JJ Rowe, who recommends ed the power of exclusion should be kept following his anther attack. Sinn Fein is mual review of the Prevention presently barred from the talks of Terrorism (Temporary Pro-

GCSE and A-level 'getting easier'

By Judith Judd Education Editor

yesterday.

EXAM standards may be falling, Chris Woodhead, the Chief Inspector of Schools said

In GCSE English exams, ministers must address the question of whether grammar and punctuation were being sacrificed because pupils were being taught more knowledge, he argued.

Mr Woodhead made his controversial suggestion in his annual lecture at the Royal Society of Arts in London, He appeared to contradict statements by ministers after last summer's GCSE and A-level exams, saying that standards have remained the same for the last 20 years.

He said that an inquiry carried out last year by government exam advisers and his Office for Standards in Education had found no evidence that exams had become easier over the last two decades.

But the inquiry into maths, English and chemistry had not. he emphasised, given GCSE and A-levels "a clean bill of health". It had not come to definite conclusions because the exam boards had not been able to produce enough examples of past scripts.

Instead, it had raised questions about whether broader syllabuses had led to poorer grammar and spelling.

"I can of course understand why some find it easier to sweep such issues under the carpct. To raise the possibility that examinations may not be as demanding today as they were 20 years ago is to call into question the reality of the inexorable rise in achievement the examination statistics seem year by year to

The qualifications and Curriculum Authority last night issued a robust rebuttal of Mr Woodhead's remarks. It said it had carried out inquiries into four more subjects at GCSE and five at A level since the previous investigation.

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jailed for Political bombing knives a

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knives are out for me, says Connery

By Tim Hulse

THE ACTOR Sean Connery yesterday described the decision to deny him a knighthood in the New Year honours list as "purehy political". Speaking from his home in the Bahamas, he also suggested that he had been the victim of "character assassination".

The saga began on Sunday when it was alleged that Connery's knighthood had been blocked following the intervention of Donald Dewar, the Secretary of State for Scotland, and one of Dewar's junior ministers, Sam Galbraith. Connery had been put forward for the honour early last year by Virginia Bottomley, the then heritage secretary. The recommendation was passed to the Scottish Office and the then Scottish secretary, Michael Forsyth, approved it. However, when Labour came to power, the process had to be repeated, and this is when Dewar is said to have stepped in.

Initially it was believed that the decision was taken as a result of Connery's longstanding and vocal support for the Scottish National Party. Only last week it was revealed that he had donated £200,000 to the party over five years. However, unnamed "government sources" have suggested alternative reasons, such as Connery's tax exile status as well as remarks he once made about violence

don't pay taxes. I pay taxes more than most people in the UK."

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turn it has taken now when they drag up something from the past about my violence towards

Connery provoked considerable controversy in 1993 when he told Vanity Fair magazine: "Sometimes there are women who take it to the wire. They are looking for the ultimate confrontation - they want a smack. It's much more cruel to damage someone psychologically. To slap a woman isn't the cruellest thing you can do."

However, Connery yesterday denied "absolutely" that he had ever said it was acceptable to hit women but admitted his comments might have been "stupid". In his opinion, the matter was purely political. "Either they or I are hoisted on their own petard," he said, referring to Messrs Dewar and Galbraith, "because if the, want to do a character assassination on me, then that's their way of justifying saying they should not give it to him. That must be the purpose, I don't know. You must ask them."

When asked about the controversy on the Scottish radio station Clyde News yesterday. Mr Dewar said: "We cannot and never do explain about the honours." After saying decisions were not his "specific responsibility", he admitted that "we are sometimes consulted".

Connery, who has "Scotland Forever" tattooed on his "I am fed up being told I vent SNP supporter. In No- about Scotland and why we toltheir behalf. His theme was the said. "If the SNP wins, so does



Stone of Destiny and the broadcast was deemed the party's most successful, with nearly 600 people applying for membership immediately after it

In April last year, Connery wrote a letter of support for the campaign for Scottish independence. "Everywhere I go in it arm, has long been a ler- the world, people want to know vember 1996 he appeared in a erate our affairs being run by party political broadcast on someone else's government," he

Scotland - it's as simple as that." Connery's portrait appears, together with that of party leader Alex Salmond, on the SNP's homepage on the Internet.

At a tribute to the star in New York last May, Harrison Ford, said: "Sean does everything from Arab sheikhs to dragons with a Scots accent. As an actor, he honours his home-

Leading article, page 18

THE CONTROVERSIES

In 1993 Connery was subjected to allegations of racism following the release of the film version of Michael Crichton's novel 'Rising Sun', which dealt with the unscrupulous nature of Japanese corporations. It was reported that he had even received death threats, forcing him to hire two bodyguards.

Last year, the actor who has always described himself as a onefair with Helle Byrn, a Danish journalist 23 years his junior, "At the height of passion, he would repeat the same words in a foreign language," she said. "It sounded like Arabic or possibly Gaelic."

Gay doctors to get equal treatment

By Jeremy Laurance Health Editor

LEADERS of the British Medical Association are expected to teach their cricketing brethren in the MCC a lesson in equal rights today by allowing gay and unmarried heterosexual partners of doctors cut-rate mem-

bership of the association. The BMA's ruling council is to vote on a proposal to allow live-in partners of either sex to qualify for the cut-rate subscription which is currently only available to spouses. However, the value of the discount is to be reduced so wives and husbands will pay more to allow unmarried partners to qualify.

Once seen as the heart of the medical establishment, populated by white-haired gents in the Dr Finlay mould, the BMA has modernised in recent years as a reforming leadership has given it a younger, more progressive outlook. Now it has bowed to pressure from its junior doctor members whose domestic arrangements would have shocked their forebears.

Only doctors may join the association but the low-price subscription has been valuable to medical couples who effectively get two memberships for the price of one and a half. In addition to a weekly copy of the British Medical Journal, members get legal and industrial relations advice in disputes with employers, pensions advice, cheap motor insurance and a range of other services.

The BMA has 114,000 members most of whom pay an annual subscription of around £250. About 5,000 spouses pay the lower subscription, which is reduced by 62 per cent. A further 2,000 are expected to qualify for the new cut-rate, which is to be set at 50 per cent to moved out. Dr Appleyard said maintain the same level of he "sincerely hoped" the inincome for the association.

Dr Jim Appleyard, BMA treasurer, said the demands for change had come from unmarried junior doctors in longargued that they were being discriminated against: "We wanted to be fair to people in those circumstances and not think of gender or sexual orientation. Once they are living in a house with joint responsibility for that as a couple, we won't be judg-

MCC DECIDES on women

MCC, the world's most famous cricket club, was set to vote last night on whether to overtum two centuries of tradition and admit women as members.

The result was to be announced after a special general meeting of the Marylebone Cricket Club at Lord's. Expectations at press time yesterday were, that despite mounting pressure. members might once again balk at the prospect of a mixed pavilion.

When this vexed issue was last addressed, in 1991. the modernisers failed to achieve the required twothirds majority to alter the club's constitution.

This time though, the female players and spectators who are clamouring to join have the backing of the MCC hierarchy. The club's committee has written to all members, whose average age is 57, urging them to vote in favour. — Kathy Marks

mental on who that couple should be. I have constructed as fair a system as I can which cost-neutral."

Both partners must be doctors and the discount would lapse if they separated and one crease in subscriptions for spouses, whose discount will be reduced from 62 to 50 per cent, would not lead to protests.

"They get incredibly good term relationships who had value for money," he said.

Harding helicopter death ·blamed on pilot's confusion

THE PILOT of the helicopter in which Chelsea Football Club vice-chairman Matthew Harding died probably became disoriented just before the aircraft plunged to earth and burst into flames, an inquest was told yesterday. Multi-millionaire Mr Hard-

ing, 42, pilot Michael Goss, 38, businessmen Tony Burridge, 39, and Raymond Deane, 43, and magazine journalist John Bauldie, 47, died instantly when the Twin Squirrel aircraft crashed into farmland near Middlewich, Cheshire, and burst into flames as it was Y carrying the party from a Chelsea v Bolton cup tie on 22 October 1996.

Chief air accident investigator Michael Charles told the inquest in Knutsford, Cheshire. that former army pilot Mr Goss was probably trying to do "more than was achievable" in trying to fly single-handed in poor visibility in a helicopter without autopilot and while



trying to talk to air traffic control. He said new regulations on night flying were due to be introduced which would require that helicopters with single pilots should be fitted with autopilots or stabilisation devices. Mr Goss probably became

confused and might not have believed his instruments before trying to manoeuvre the helicopter without looking for visual signs outside the aircraft, the inquest was told.



Mr Charles told Cheshire

coroner John Hibbert that there was an indicator in the cockpit showing the position of the helicopter in relation to the horizon. "If he had looked at it and believed what it had told him and acted on it, there would have been no problem," he said. But it was not uncommon for pilots to get a "body sense" and convince themselves their aircraft was straight.

Photographs: PA recording on which Mr Goss, who had drifted off course, asked air traffic control for permission to climb to 3,000 feet before requesting a bearing straight to Manchester Airport. He was given permission

Matthew Harding's widow

Ruth (far left) and his mis-

tress Vicky Jaramillo, who

were both in court for

yesterday's hearing

ILS (instrument landing). The pilot's last words were: "Yeah, I'm looking for vectors for an ILS ... I think I'm in a descent at the moment ... hold on." The aircraft is believed to have crashed moments later.

to climb and was then asked

what bearings he wanted for an

Mr Harding's estranged wife Rnth, 44, and his girlfriend Vicky Jaramillo, 26, were both in court for the hearing, which is expected to last up to four The jury heard a tapedays. It continues today.

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Lads on pauper's pay in 'sport of kings'

Labour Editor

STABLE lads who work in the "sport of kings" are among the lowest paid workers in Britain. official research for the Low Pay Commission shows.

The first of Staff who look after racehorses are paid as little as £1.98 an hour, which over a normal Working year would translate into a wage of less than £4,000. Junt bottom of the low-pay

league was Axa Provincial In-Strance, based in Kendal, Cum-THE GOE ona, the report - "Pay Systems and Pay Structures and the

Relationship to Low Pay" compiled by Incomes Data Services claimed, however, that no one for workers over the age of 24. found, Axa Provincial

was actually paid less than £3.17 an hour.

Responding to the findings. a spokesman for the National Trainers' Federation for horseracing said that the £1.98 an hour rate applied to school leavers and was a "safety net". Many employees were paid

Junior hairdressers, who received as little as £2.18 an hour, are also among the poorest workers, according to the study for the commission which will advise ministers on the level at which the national minimum wage should be set.

The Government is expected to set a minimum of around £3.50 an hour at current prices

Cowboy truckers face fine

LORRIES operated by cowboy truckers could be impounded under Government plans to be announced today. Gavin Strang. Cabinet minister with responsibility for transport, will outline the powers in a speech to the freight industry. Officials say that some firms do not abide by safety rules and undercut more nrudent rivals, and some deterrent is required. The move will require primary legislation and ministers are inclined to fine offending operators £5,000.

Halle suspends directors

THE Halle Orchestra yesterday suspended two directors on full pay pending an inquiry into the financial affairs of the crisis-hit organisation. A spokeswoman for the Manchesterbased orchestra stressed there was no suggestion that John Whibley, deputy chief executive, or Jack Whittaker, director of finance, had been involved in any illegal activity.

BBC Parliamentary coverage

DUE to a typographical error, yesterday's story about changes to the BBC's coverage of Parliament said the corporation was scrapping On The Record. The show being dropped is in fact the early-morning BBC 2 programme The Record.

REMIERLINE COSTS 29 PER QUARTER AND IS RECOMMENDED FOR CUSTOMERS WITH CALL BILLS OVER \$46 PER QUARTER, MINIMUM CHARGE 5P PER CALL, PRICES QUOTED ARE ETS WERKEND RATE PER MINUTE, NOT AVAILABLE ON BT CHARGECARD CALLS

Hereditary peerage is backed by Hague

Political Editor

A STRONG defence of the hereditary peerage was delivered last night by William Hague, Conservative leader.

Following reports that Tory resolve was weakening in the face of the Government's determination to abolish the voting rights of hereditary peers in the Lords, he attacked the Labour plans in a speech to the Centre for Policy Studies, in London

"The Government is now embarking on what is potentially the most damaging step of all - removing the main independent element in the House of Lords by excluding the hereditary peers," he said.

"Mr Blair's justification is his distike of the hereditary principle, although he sees no contradiction in also parading himself as the protector of the monarchy.

"Labour's plans could lead to a House almost entirely composed of nominated peers. This would be a huge and dangerous extension of prime ministerial power. It would be wholly unacceptable to the Conservative Party."

Nevertheless, Mr Hague accepted that the balance of power had changed in society, and the requirement to have a House representing the interests of property and land had "diminished". Because of that, the Conservative Party was "open to suggestions about how membership of the Lords might be changed, too, and whether the hereditary principle is the right one to employ when choosing members for the

Mr Hague's speech, entitled left by Labour.

"Change and Tradition: Thinking Creatively about the Constitution", was based on the premise that once Labour's changes had taken place, it would not be possible to turn the clock back.

But the Tories would need to have their own programme of constitutional reform, to correct "the dangerous imbalances and tensions which Labour's constitutional reforms will unleash.

We must seek the construct a set of constitutional relationships which will preserve the key, overarching principles of our existing constitution: limited government, the rule of law, the unity of the kingdom and, above all, democratic accountability," Mr Hague

He would be open to radical suggestions, but he said the Tories might have to think of creating an English parliament, as a response to devolution of power to Scotland and Wales. and Parliament might have to become accountable for the appointment of judges, if the judiciary was to be politicised by human rights legislation.

As for referendums, Mr Hague warned that they could amount to little more than "cosmetic democracy". He criticised proportional representation as "a profoundly undemocratic measure masquerading under the banner of democracy" - which he would "have no truck with".

Mr Hague, who also said that the ability of Parliament to hold the executive to account needed to be strengthened, urged his party to work with him to provide answers to the constitutional legacy that would be

The badger's friends protest (with a little help from Linda and Paul)



Sett for action: Protesters arrive at Westminster yesterday to lobby about plans to cull of 10,000 badgers

WITH the blood sports lobby and their rural fellow travellers due to march in the capital on Sunday, friends of the badger and the hare are getting their protests in first.

The National Federation of Badger Groups was demonstrating at the Commons against plans to cull 10,000 badgers in a five-year experiment on how to eradicate tuberculosis from cattle.

And anti-hunt campaigners demonstrated yesterday at Altcar on Merseyside on the first day of the Waterloo Cup. Britain's premier hare coursing event. An attempt was made to present a 5,000 signature petition against the sport signed by Linda and Paul McCartney to the cup host, Lord Leverhuline, but was not accepted.

The event has been held since 1836 but animal welfare groups are hopeful that this year will bring the cup's Waterloo. Hare coursing would be outlawed along with fox hunting under the Wild Mammals (Hunting with Dogs) Bill going through Parliament.

The good life? page 16

Mould cracking at last, say Lib-Dems

By Anthony Bevins

THE LABOUR and Conservative two-party mould is beginning to crack open, Liberal Democrats are to be told at their annual spring conference, at Southport, next month.

Appealing for endorsement of the party's current stance of "constructive opposition" to the Labour 20vernment, the party leadership tells representatives: "If it ain't broke, don't fix it."

In a policy paper, No Glass Ceilings, the party executive says that since last year's election, the Liberal Democrats have become recognised "as the most effective opposition, working

with the Government in some areas to implement our long-standing objectives, and vigorously opposing them in other areas ...

"What is more, we have gained our new-found strength at a time of great fluidity and uncertainty in British politics. With divisions opening up within both the other parties ('Old' Labour and 'New' Labour, Euro-sceptic' Conservative and 'One Nation' Conservative) the two-party mould is beginning to crack, the paper

"The possible advent of a proportional voting system and a pluralist political settiement only goes to exacerbate these uncertainties."

Water clean up under threat

By Nicholas Schoon Environment Correspondent

WATER bills must not be cut, MPs of all parties warned yesterday. They should be held level so that more money can be pumped into curbing sewage pollution on beaches and in

The cross-party House of Commons Environment Committee also launched a blistering attack on the two government regulators of England and Wales's water industry, Ofwat director general lan Byatt and the Environment

Mr Byatt, said the MPs, was fixated on pushing through a price cut for water customers during the next price-setting exercise for the industry. But he was ignoring the bigger picture:

standards and a cleaner environment. The Committee said it regretted "he chose to interpret his duty to customers only as protecting their pockets".

As r the Environment Agency, yesterday's report on sewage treatment and disposal suggests this is a weak green watchdog which suffers from being under-funded by government. The MPs criticised the attitude of one top agency official towards public openness as being "flippant and condescending". Their report says "one could be forgiven sometimes for imagining that the environment agency is a subbranch of Ofwat."

The MPs found that standards for treating the 14 billion litres a day of sewage Britain produces had improved markedly since privatisation nine years ago. But that was only to be expected, since av- · says all the rest must follow. erage bills to households for treatment had risen from £64 in 1989-90 to £123 this year. But there was a real need for further progress, and the Committee believes this can be achieved without price rises.

It says that by 2002, just four years away, all sewage should receive three levels of treatment which removes 99.9 per cent of bacteria in the final effluent as well as removing nearly all of the nutrients. It is this combination of nutrient feed and bacteria which does most of the environmental harm to rivers. in severe cases starving them of oxygen and wiping out aquatic life. The report points out that three of the major water companies are already committed to introducing this three-stage treatment to all

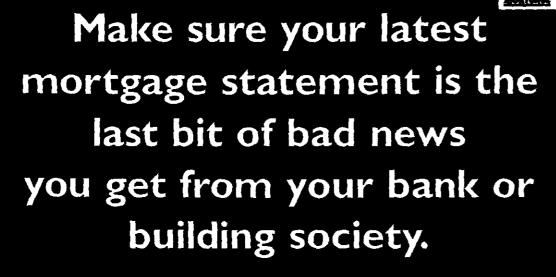
their works, eventually, and

The MPs also have grave concerns about the practice of spreading the sludge from sewage works on farmland as a fertiliser, which could potentially contaminate food with viruses and bacteria as well as building up concentrations of toxic heavy metals. This practice is set to increase because of a ban on dumping sewage sludge at sea which comes into

The Committee says that by 2002 all sewage sludge placed on farmland must undergo pasteurisation treatment which kills most of the bacteria in it. And the practice of using it as fertiliser should no longer be regulated with a voluntary code of practice. "These are tough recommendations but we believe they are realistic," says the

force this year.

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Heroin cure may have killed six

By Steve Boggan

A VIETNAMESE herbalist who gained worldwide acclaim for inventing a "miracle" cure for heroin addiction may have Clinton's attention. Pressure covered up the deaths of up to six patients in his care.

Health officials in Hanoi have evidence that a clinic run by Tran Khuong Dan bribed at least one family to bury their a possible £2.4m to follow. son's body without informing the authorities.

United Nations sources in New York - who have launched costly trials on the "cure" - told censed - and there is a split The Independent yesterday that they believe more cases are being investigated, yet testing on the drug is likely to continue.

Mr Dan sprang to worldwide prominence last November when his secret formula, called Heantos, attracted the attention of the world's media. A former construction worker and herbalist, Mr Dan claimed he seized. deliberately became an opium addict to see whether he could find a natural way to detoxify

After travelling from village to village in the highlands of Vietnam, he put together a secret concoction made up of 13 tiated with the victim's family

some addicts kick their habit. Although no formal evaluation had been undertaken, visiting American politicians

brought the treatment to Bill was brought to bear upon specialists in addiction to investigate and the UN Development Programme reportedly allocated £240,000 to the project, with

Now, however, Mr Dan's activities have been branded illegal in Vietnam - because Heantos is untested and unliwithin the UN on whether to proceed with trials.

In an interview with The Youth newspaper in Vietnam, Nguyen Hun Lam, vice-chairman of the Vietnamese ministry of health's drug control committee, said stocks of Heantos "illegally" produced by Mr Dan and several partners had been

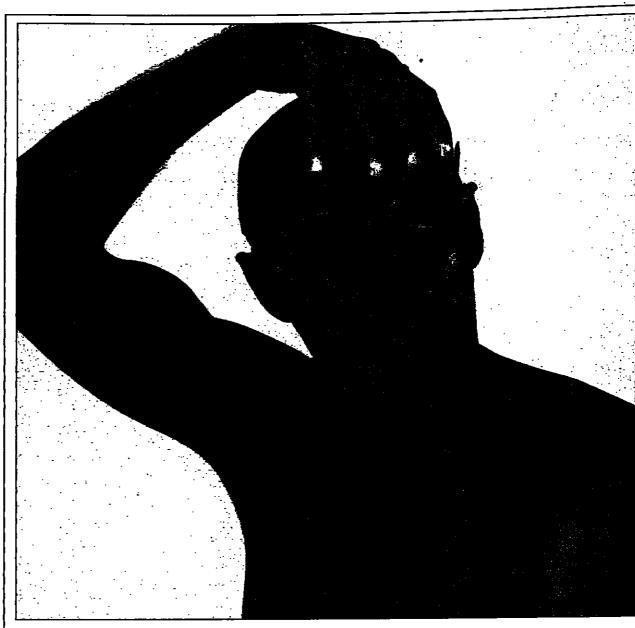
More disturbingly, he added: "This illegal operation led to a serious consequence causing death to [a patient] on 30 July 1997 during treatment at the Heantos Detoxification Centre. The centre management nego-

million Vietnamese dong [approximately £1,500] for the family to bring the body to the village for burial without reporting the case to the local administration and relevant authorities." There is a row between of-

ficials at the UN Development Programme (UNDP), which wants to proceed with tests on Heantos, and the UN Drug Control Programme, which is sceptical. It is understood the UNDP is refusing to pass on details of the Heantos formula to the Drug Control Programme.

"We can't say whether this thing works or not because there have been no formal tests and no follow-up work to see whether the addicts are still off their drugs," a UN source said. "We are hearing from Vietnam that there might have been as many as six deaths that had gone unreported."

Some experts suspect Heantos may contain kratom, a plant from Thailand and Vietnam which, when chewed, acts on the same brain receptors as heroin. "If that is the case, then this isn't a cure, it's a substitute and it would be no better than the methadone we give people plants which appeared to help and offered to provide 15 now," said the source.



Hats off to student picture winner

STUDENT photographer Geoff Davies, from Nottingham, went one better this year than last by taking first prize in the Ucas/ Independent student photographic competition. His winning entry Blue Hat (left) earns him a prize worth more than £1,300.

Runner-up was Clementine Sandison, from Gwent, with Rich and Anne Portraits. The Universities and

Colleges Admissions Service/ Independent competition run in conjunction with essops, Linneys Colour Print, STA Travel, and Photo Answers magazine – attracted more than 1,000 entries.

Winners were also chosen in four individual categories: Students at Work (Michael McMahon, Michelle in New Library); Student Travel (Jörg Wagner, Itaguacu); Portraits (Nicholas Hughes, Moral Rights Asserted); and On Campus (Ross Harvey, Double Exposure Around Campus).

Cholesterol tests unlikely to save lives

By Jeremy Laurance Health Editor

CHOLESTEROL screening is unlikely to save lives and can be misleading or even harmful, a role of cholesterol in heart disreport says today.

People who discover they have a raised cholesterol level in their blood may even start to feel ill - simply labelling them as "high cholesterol" may cause them to "adopt the sick role".

Two-thirds of GPs offer

one survey showed that 28 per cent of people aged 45-64 had had their blood cholesterol screened in the last three years.

A review of research on the ease says that although it is an important factor, by itself it is a poor predictor of heart attacks. Most men who have heart attacks have a level at or below the average of 6 mmols per litre. Focusing on cholesterol may distract from bigger tre for Reviews and Dissemination, a government-funded agency, says that cholesterollowering drugs do save lives among patients at high risk smokers, or couch potatoes but are not appropriate for

Cholesterol-reducing drugs are expensive and spending on them has risen more than fivesome cholesterol testing and risks like high blood pressure. drugs which can cut the risk of patent runs until 2008.

people whose only risk is a

raised cholesterol level.

The study, by the NHS Cenheart attacks, such as aspirin, are cheaper and should be tried first, the report says.

One drug, Lovostatin, is set to come off patent next year which could bring a sharp fall in its price, saving the NHS millions. But Lovostatin is only licensed in the US and its manufacturer, Merck, Sharp and Dohme, has no plans to li cense it in the UK because it would be a rival for Simvastatin, fold since 1993 to £113m. Other also made by MSD, whose

Rail crash families must wait for justice

By Randeep Ramesh Transport Correspondent

THE families of the seven people killed in Britain's worst rail disaster since 1988 will have to wait "for years" before the cause of the accident can be investigated.

Lawyers for the families of victims killed in the Southall crash last September say that with possible criminal prosecutions pending, it could be 18 months before a public inquiry

can start and the first evidence is heard. Professor John Uff, the inspector appointed to head the public inquiry which opened and adjourned yesterday, promised everything would be done to restart the investigation as soon as possible.

But the mother of one of those killed said the delay was "unbearable". Maureen Kavanagh, 51, of Laindon, Essex, whose son Peter, 29, was killed in the crash, said it was very dif-

"This has devastated my life. Peter was my only son and I loved him. I want to see justice done," she said.

Professor Uff said that to go on with the inquiry might have prejudiced any prosecutions arising from the crash in west London. The accident occurred when a packed Great Western express train was in collision with an empty goods train.

inevitable delay to the inquiry.

More than 150 people were ficult for families to cope with the injured in the crash which, in

terms of fatalities, was the worst since 35 people died in the Clapham crash in 1988. John Hendy QC, represent-

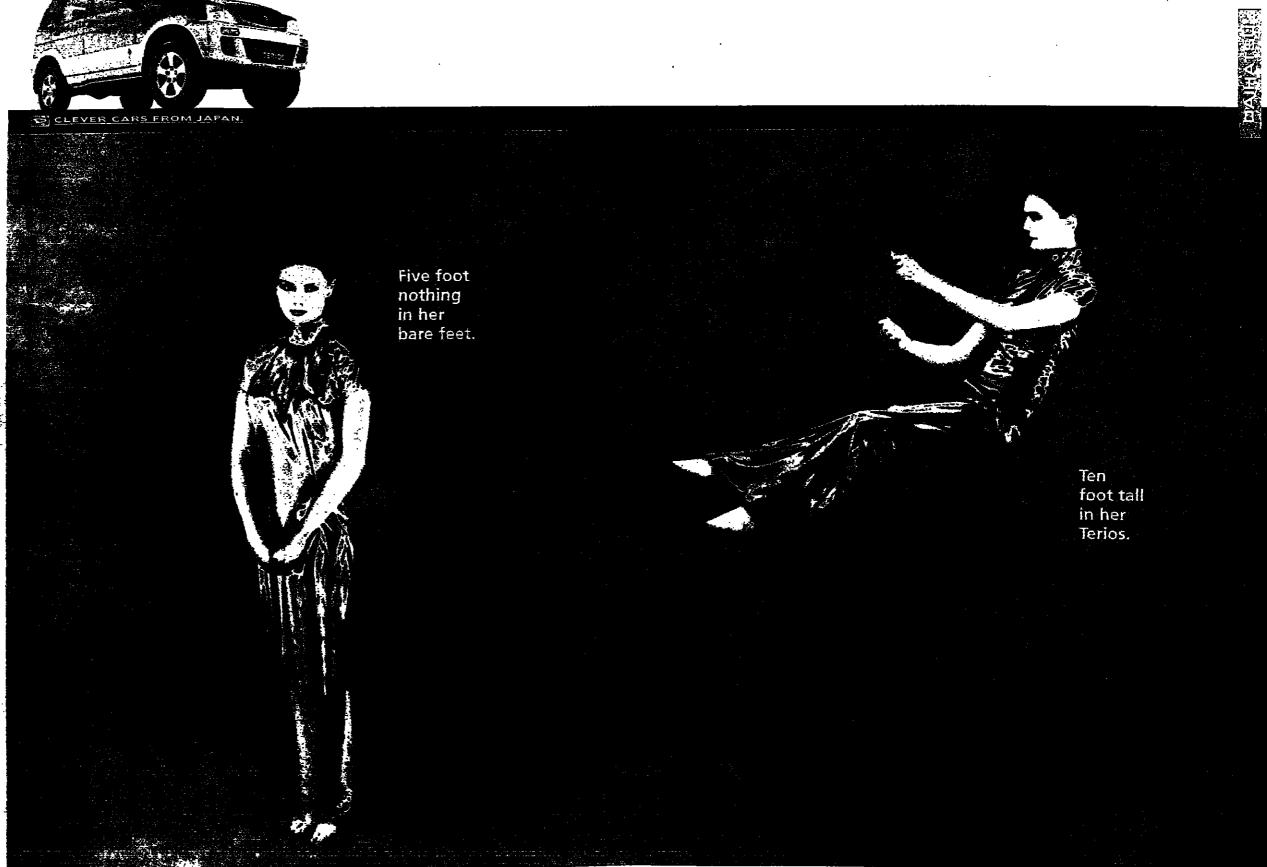
ing 32 victims of the crash, including the families of five of those killed, told the inquiry: "It may be 12-18 months before the process of prosecution is completed." Mr Hendy called on the rail companies in the meantime to release documents to the victims' families which could help establish what happened on the day of the disaster.



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But now we have the big top, won't it need a ringmaster?

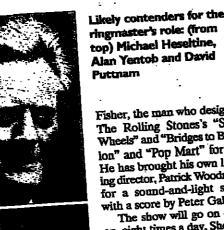
By Nonie Niesewand and David Lister

CONDUCTOR, ringmaster or creative director. Does the Dome need one? Yes, it needs a ringmaster, said Dome architect Richard Rogers on BBC's Panorama, though he now claims that soundbite was "manipulated." No, the Millennium Experience is not a circus, counters Michael Grade, chairman of the Dome's Creative Review Group. Perhaps, he suggested, Lord Rogers really meant a conductor.

Creative director? Well, the last one, Stephen Bayley, quit in disgust. So, is anyone taking an artistic and aesthetic overview of the £758m project? Or is a creative supremo surplus to requirements in a multimillion-pound entertainment and educational extravaganza? "There is almost a city inside the Dome" argues Michael Grade. "And if this exhibition is about anything, it is about diversity. It's too early to make a decision on the conductor of this symphony and end the style diversity that is needed to get into the Dome."

Nevertheless, certain names are worth watching. Michael Heseltine - always a favourite with Lord Rogers' team - was on parade yesterday to explain that the Dome has always been a source of national pride, never a party political issue and that it always had his support. The BBC's Alan Yentob has been spoken of as masterminding the contents. So have Lord Puttnam, Michael Grade himself and PR man Matthew Freud.

Lord Rogers can be forgiven, indeed supported, for wanting a creative director. As the architect responsible for all interior fittings of everything from lighting to lavatories, stairs and ramps to entrances and exits, he needs to work alongside one. First he was given Imagination Gallery.



When their contract was not re-

newed, Stephen Bayley was

appointed as the creative di-

rector but resigned just six

months into the job, claiming

that Peter Mandelson was both

overbearing and too impres-

sionable. The showbiz impre-

sario Cameron Macintosh was

given the task of staging the cen-

trepiece show, which he esti-

mated would cost £230m. So he

was withdrawn, retained as cre-

ative adviser and appointed in

designer the architect Mark ...

Puttnam

Fisher, the man who designed The Rolling Stones's "Steel Wheels" and "Bridges to Babylon" and "Pop Mart" for U2. He has brought his own lighting director, Patrick Woodruffe, for a sound-and-light show, with a score by Peter Gabriel.

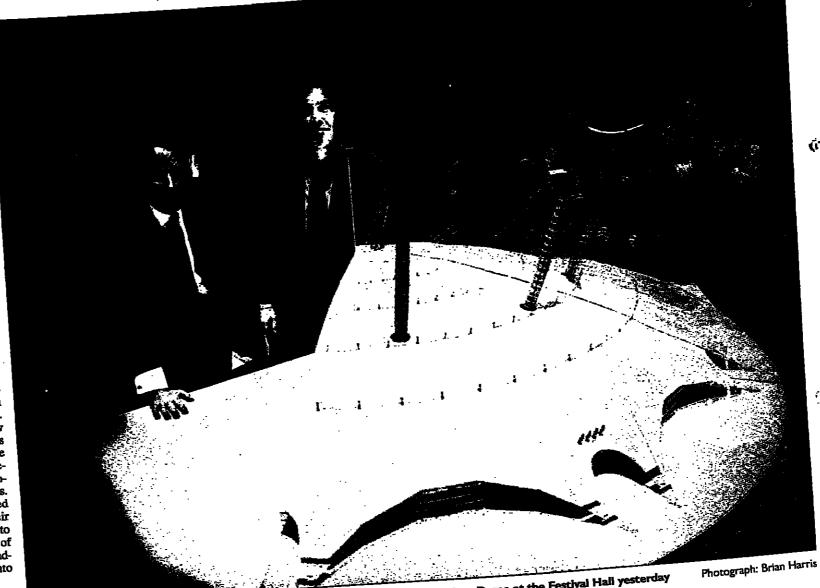
The show will go on - and on, eight times a day. Showbiz or design-led, the vacancy for a person with an over-view still remains. And a creative force seems essential for what is intrinsically a show, albeit with spiritual and educational input.

Every Thursday at the New Millennium Experience offices in Victoria, Michael Heseltine meets Peter Mandelson to review projects and control sponsors who flex their muscles. British Telecom announced they are spreading their promised £12m sponsorship to give everyone over the age of nine in Britain a free e-mail address service and moving into a mini-dome next door.

Yesterday, as Tony Blair stepped into the ringmaster's boots to crack the whip for new sponsorship deals - and to reveal the Dome's contents -Lord Rogers was beside him to endorse the New Millennium Experience.

This is likely to be a 90 per cent success story, Lord Rogers told BT, BAA, Tesco, Manpower, and BSkyB, which have contributed to the £58.8m raised for the New Millennium Experience, which is estimated to cost £153m. "The bandwagon is beginning to roll," Mr Blair added. And it seems likely that on December 31 1999 Peter Mandelson will still be driver, conductor, ringmaster or whatever title he wishes to give his place rock 'n' roll stage set

Leading article, page 18



Slice of the action: Peter Mandelson and Tony Blair with a model of the Millennium Dome at the Festival Hall yesterday

Part Me

A STATE OF THE PARTY.

A T M.

Unveiling gets a mixed reception

By Rosa Prince and Chris Brown

REACTION to the unveiling of the contents of the Millennium Dome was mixed yesterday.

Tory culture spokesman Francis Maude called on Tony Blair to ensure the Dome and the millennium celebrations were non-political "Is Tony Blair big enough to declare the Millennium Dome a politician-free zone?" he said.

"The project has been bedevilled with controversy and bad publicity since Peter Mandelson took over last year. He is the most controversial party politician in the country." Away from politics the

Booker prize-winning author Ben Okri, was worried the Dome's designers had not been bold enough in their plans. "I would rather be proud of the Dome than not," he said. "And I am behind it if it is on the side of the angels. I still think it is an excellent idea and I hope they get it right - I want it to be a success.

But I don't think being original enough. I don't think they are making enough of the rich cultural reserves of this nation, the land of Shakespeare, Keats, Byron; they're not reaching in to it enough."

Lord Peter Palumbo, former chairman of the Arts Council, was concerned the exhibits would not stand the test of time. He said: "I wonder if it is likely to make a lasting contribution. Things move on so quickly, people could get bored."

Stephen Bayley, who last month quit as creative director of the project, was critical of the plans. "Peter Mandelson tends to dismiss all criticism about the Millennium Dome," he said on BBC radio's Today programme yesterday. "He will say that all great national projects like the Great Exhibition and the Festival of Britain attracted their critics and, of course, he is right. But the difference is that in 1851 and 1951 the philistines were on the outside; today I'm afraid the philistines are on the

inside." Raymond Gubbay, the theatre impresario, said he was opposed to the concept of the Dome. "To be honest I would much rather have Mendelssohn than Mandelson. I find the whole Dome prospect rather sad - it is a complete waste of money which could have been much better used elsewhere." On the religious front, the

By David Constantine

MILLENNIAL COUNTDOWN

The Dome will be built at breakneck speed to ensure it is up and running for the year 2000.

March 1998: Roof fabric will begin to be placed.

April: Plans for the layout of exhibits finalised.

July: Ticket prices for show of the Millennium will be set. September: Construction of the Dome structure completed October: The first exhibits and attractions installed. January 1999: Businesses can buy the first tickets. March: Structures for key attractions will be installed.

May: Central area will be completely installed.

July: Tickets will go on sale to the public.

November: Installation of the contents will be completed. December: River services will become operational and three days of free previews for Greenwich residents will take place. December 31: Dome will be opened.

Right Rev Gavin Reid, Bishop long as it did not become "a politicians' plaything". of Maidstone and chairman of He said: "The Liberal Dethe Archbishops' Advisory mocrats will support millenni-Group on the Millennium, said um initiatives for the people. he was cautious about the pro-But if this Dome is for the selfposed spiritual content of the aggrandisement of politicians Dome. But, he said: "I welcome and the commercial interests of that there is going to be matebig businesses, then it will not

rial about Christianity and I'm win the people's support." very pleased that in a cosmopolitan world there will also be that which talks about the contribution of other faiths." Trevor Phillips, chairman of the London Arts Board, said the contents of the Dome would have to be spectacular for it to be a success. He said: "We have got to have something pretty stupendous to justify it.

not just to then be a terrible disappointment. Wayne Hemingway, head of the fashion company Red or Dead, pronounced himself a fan of the Dome. "My children have been very excited about the Dome and provided it does not lose loads of money and lasts for a long time it can only be a good thing. It should educate and entertain kids. It has to be better than a massive art display which will just bore

I think people are going to come and see it just for the size

of the damn thing and there has

got to be enough content for it

Simon Hughes, Liberal Democrat spokesman for London, supported the Dome as

DAILY POEM

On Oxford Station, 15 February 1997

Then everything paused, it all went very quiet,

Blue that the iron tracks were levelled at,

Such blue, such quiet blue, it troubled me

One white cloud on the quiet empty blue,

Testing for breath, feeling for final proof.

Light as a feather at the lips of life

Bloodaxe Books (£6.95).

I watched a small cloud on the blue due north,

Like something unimaginable that I could see

And didn't have the word for, I watched the cloud,

Our Daily Poems today and tomorrow come from David Con-

stantine's seventh collection, The Pelt of Wasps, published by

Michael Heseltine, the former deputy prime minister who was charge of the Dome under the Tories, denied the project was party political. "Everything that Tony Blair said today is actually part and parcel of the original concept which we established. It's very important for a national event of this sort to

rise above party politics." Alex Falconer, a left-wing Labour MEP, said the money for the millennium celebrations at Greenwich could be

better spent. "It is currently estimated that £400m of lottery money will be spent on this ill-founded and élitist Tory-conceived venture. tor sponsors will cost us another £50m. It should not be supported by Labour."

But Claire Ward, Labour MP and past critic of the Dome. said: "If that is only half of what they can deliver, then we are in for something quite special."

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INDEPENDENT

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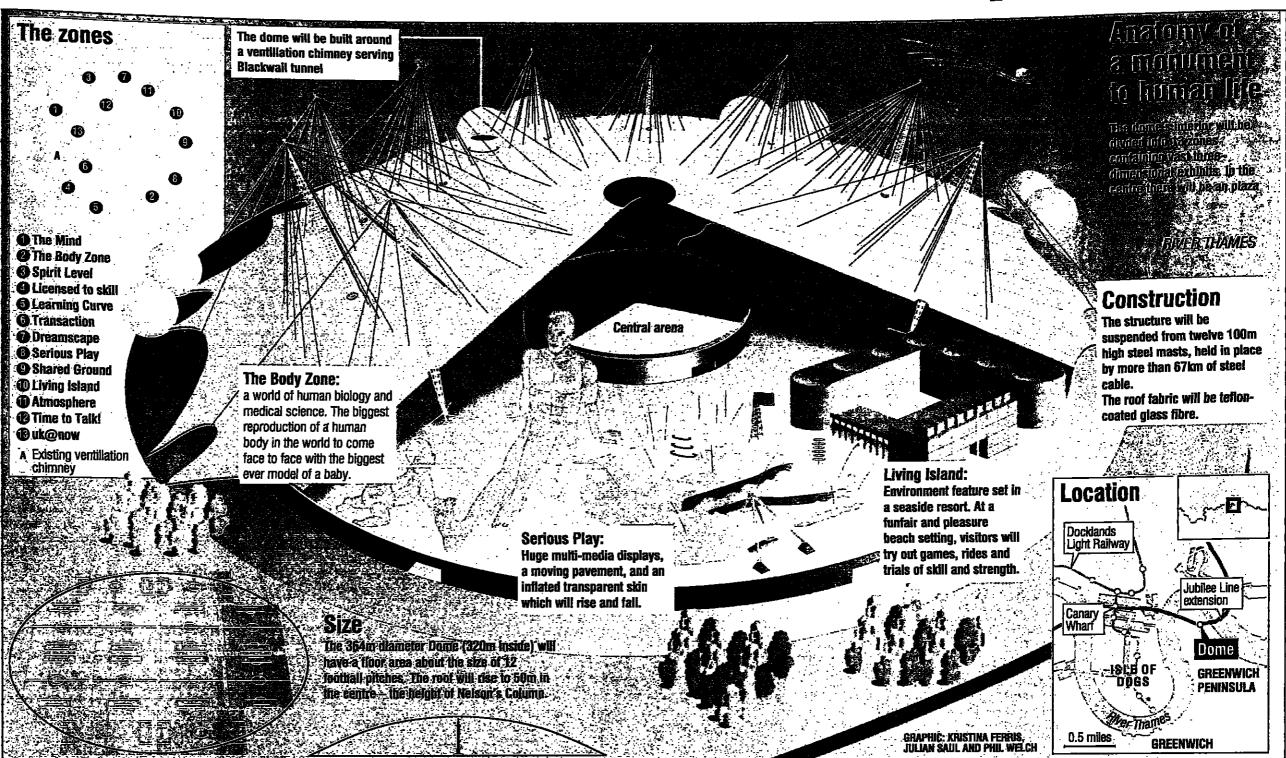
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The last training to the second

A State Than Tarta Jak

rld, say Blair, as lid of Dome is finally lifted



All human life takes a trip into time

By David Lister Arts News Editor

I reception

The Decades

on CD-Rom

YOU walk into the androgynous zone: a vast human body, devoid of gender. You enter through the waist, take a lift up to the brain and exit through the

This is the Body Zone, one of 13 zones at the Dome though one might yet turn out to be a "virtual zone". All human life is certainly have and play, rides and live performances. One can even glide with a dozen or so others on a floating bed, the floater-coaster. Welcome to the Millennium

> The Body Zone: Visitors are taken into the world of human biology and medical science inside the sitting human figure, which will be covered with pictures of children. Health reproduction and cosmetic surgery are all explored. And one exits the biggest reproduction of a human body in the world to come face to face with the biggest ever model of a baby. Family values usher in the new millennium.

Spirit Level: Here, say the Dome's managers, you will "experience a moment of peace and reflect on our deepest common beliefs".

Basically, you choose your religion, choose the appropriate garden and reflect. There will be, it is somewhat optimistically promised, "oases of calm" set within an area of garden which draws inspiration from the sheltered calm of a Christian monastic cloister, the austerity of Japanese Zen gardens and the formal exuberance

of Muslim gardens. The Learning Curve: This will feature classrooms of the future via a themed ride, and you will be able to talk to children m their schools worldwide on

zone, peppered with buttock-

changing employment opportunities through multimedia

Dreamscape: Home of the "floater-coaster". The closest the Dome comes to being a health farm. This zone promotes relaxation and contemplation. Adults and children take their seats in boats which are designed as 16-seater beds, floating off through dream en-

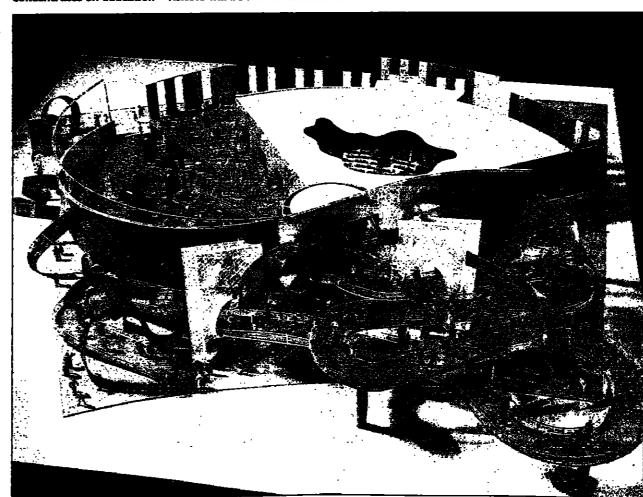
Serious Play: This is the most technologically animated area of the Dome. Huge multimedia displays rise towards the roof. The Parallax ride takes visitors upwards on a moving pavement. Coherent images resolve from apparently formless colours and shapes while an inflated transparent skin gently rises and falls. From the top of the ride, visitors can abseil, climb or simply take a lift down to a lower level and hands-on

play activities. Living Island: This explores our relationship with the environment through the curious location of a British seaside resort complete with beach, fish and chips stall, deck chairs, sun and sea. In a funfair and pleasure beach setting, visitors try out games, rides and trials of skill and strength. It's billed as "the environmental challenge as it has never been seen before". And who would argue

Zones, on which no details have yet been released, include: Transaction, which will show how money and finance are changing your life; Shared Ground, a journey through the British Isles; The Mind, which will allow you inside the human brain; Atmosphere, in which you can experience the wonder of the planet; Time To Talk, where we learn better ways of talking to each other (an area sponsored by BT); and UK @ Now, where we apparently will learn, perhaps on the internet what being British means for



Other worlds: A model of the Dreamscape zone (above), home of the floater-coaster which takes adults and children in 16-seat 'beds' along a dream river through surreal landscapes - 'setting their minds free'; Learning Curve (below) concentrates on education - visitors will be able to contact children in schools all over the world via the Internet



Hi-tech displays leave a lot of space to fill

Architecture Editor

THE DOME might be one of the architectural wonders of the late twentieth century, but filling the largest building of its kind in the world in the digital age is a difficult task.

The danger is that the amount of information that waist, for an exploration of its can be conveyed via the Internet, and using virtual reality and interactive games, will replace a lot of props and leave a lot of empty space. To compensate for the blandness of multimedia, designers will pack in overscaled human figures, floating beds for dreamscapes and gigantic roller-coaster rides.

The Teflon-coated dome drops into place in a fortnight to cover 20 acres on the North Greenwich Peninsula. So the countdown has started to filling it with a display sufficiently thrilling to entice people from all over Britain to visit.

Visible within domed area, 320 metres in diameter, are nine segments These segments have been zoned to tell the story of time with interactive displays and exhibits chosen by 11 design

When you can land a jumbo jet just by strapping on a vir-

The Learning Curve lets visitors surf the Internet. The Serious Play Zone will deliver sport and leisure activities on a moving

a lot of props. There is little

need for the plinths and display cabinets found in traditional

At its centre, the Dome is 50

metres high, as tall as Nelson's

Column. This is the "Body

Zone". Here reclines an an-

drogynous figure, 23 metres

tall which is entered through its

internal organs, and exited

beaches and piers tempt families

for an virtual outing to contrast

with the Learning and Work

Zones. Four hundred virtual re-

ality helmets in the Work Zone

allow visitors to record their

hopes and fears about their jobs.

In the Environment Zone,

through the heel.

museums and galleries.

Groovy little curved pods replace the crèche with a floatercoaster ride in a bed with 15 other kids to give parents time to unwind.

The Spirit Level, as the New Millennium Experience calls the spiritual area, is currently without a sponsor, or indeed a theme. But the Lambeth Group, a multi-faith advisory body, is in consultation with tual reality helmet and taking New Millennium Experience the controls, there is no need for team on the contents.

Brave new words of apocalyptic promise

IT's emotional, apocalyptic and zones seem to have been named can end up meaning nothing at all. The Dome has already given us a new invention for the millennium: Domespeak, writes David Lister.

As the New Millennium Experience unveiled some of the Dome's contents yesterday, they did so in language that, perhaps fittingly for the new millennium, scems a mixture of sci-fi movie and Blairite Cool Britannia. And, being bashful souls at the the question describing the Experience, they would not own up to who had written the script.

Domespeak may be apocalyptic in its promises, " ... exfacing humankind ...", but the and try to work it out.

by a failed headline writer. One can live with Spirit Level for the religious zone, but Licensed to Skill for the world of work just does not pass the cringe factor.

Perhaps the latter was intended as a light antidote to the description of the exhibit itself. Who can say what "the animatronic orchestra of work" actually means. Presumably the same person who can answer Dreamscape zone: "Is rest a state of stagnation, or a state of healing, recovery, preparation and regeneration?" That's a hibits will open up the choices tricky one. I'll have to lie down

Licensed to Skill: This cleachingly awful puns, looks at all our futures.

THE INDEPENDENT

Chinese accused of selling criminals' bodies

in New York

New York authorities confirmed yesterday that they had arrested two men on charges of conspiring to sell human organs for transplant, including kidneys, corneas, livers and skin, taken from convicts executed in

The arrests point to a lucrative trade in organs removed

steeply discounted prices to buyers in Western nations. The number of executions in China has risen sharply recently to about 6,000 a year.

Through the pair arrested in New York, for example, an American patient could receive a new kidney in a Chinese hospital for between \$20,000 (£12,500) and \$30,000, far less organs for transplant

from Chinese convicts at their than would be the case in an hour of execution and sold at American hospital. No questions would be asked about the origin of the kidneys.

The men, one of whom is believed to be a former public prosecutor from the Chinese province of Hainan, were snared in a sting last week. An agent of the FBI met them and pretended to be a medical executive looking to purchase

the US with a first documented case of what Chinese dissidents and rights organisations have been telling Western governments for years: that Peking has allowed an international trade in organs taken from inmates to grow unimpeded and even to flourish. The accused are Cheng Yong Wang and

Xingqi Fu. Prosecutors said

Mr Wang described himself as

The arrests may provide a former Hainan prosecutor. while Mr Fu said he operated a New York laundry.

Among those who have long urged action against China on the issue has been Amnesty international in London. The entrapment of the men in New York was set in train by the dissident Harry Wu, who spent 19 years in Chinese prisons and is now an American citizen.

Mr Wu met the two men on

13 February, also masquerading as a potential customer. He had a camcorder concealed in a box and taped the encounter. He passed the tape to the FBI. which felt impelled to arrange its own sting.

Mr Wu said he had been told by the pair that they could get access to the organs of at least a quarter of the roughly 200 inmates who are executed in Hainan each year. In the sub-

agent the men first offered to supply just kidneys and to arrange for US patients to have transplant operations in China. They also told the agent they could provide him with corneas at \$5,000 a pair and boasted that they could also of-

fer pancreases, lungs and skin. According to court papers. the men also assured the FBI agent that any lungs they would

supply to him "would come If the charges are made to

stick in court, the case could spur Washington into making a formal approach to Peking about putting a stop to the trade.

A spokesman for the US State Department told the New York Times: "We're naturally concerned about these allegations, and we're looking into it".

Russia's black knight makes a global move

BEHIND the electric gates. high walk and immense curtains that enclose the apricotcoloured mansion which serves as his Moscow residence, Kirsan Ilyumzhinov is busy refining his

latest sales pitch. He is building the equivalent of the Vatican, he announces with the cheerful air of a man imagining his own headlines rolling off the presses. His tiny new society will be a state-within-a-state

It will have its own parliament, cabinet, prime minister and chief executive. But the focus of this brave new world is not church but sport, the intellectual battle for superiority on a chequered board. The place will be called Chess City.

Hard selling is a required skill for the 35-year-old Mr Ilyumzhinov as the obscure patch of the planet over which he rules needs all the help it can get. Until now "spin" referred to wool, a principal Soviet-era earner for the impoverished Kalmykia, one of Russia's autonomous republics. But its boyish-looking boss seems wellversed in its modern meaning.

His job is to attract global attention, and thus investment. for a semi-arid triangle-shaped territory on the steppes of southern Russia between the Volga and the Don at the top end of the Caspian Sea. With only 321,000 mostly poor inhabitants (outnumbered ten to one by sheep), the task would deter any ordinary leader.

However, Mr Ilyumzhinov is not ordinary. He has the determination of a pit bull (a popular animal in his fieldom, where dog fights regularly pull a crowd), boundless ambition, a scornful disregard for ideology (he is both an admirer of Bill Clinton and a close friend of Saddam Hussein), and a tremendous flair for publicity. It was a combination of these characteristics that recently underlay Kal-

Phil Reeves in Moscow reports on Chess City – a capital adventurer's new Utopia

mvkia's failed efforts to buy Diego Maradona for its football team, Uralon. Chess is taken even more se-

riously than soccer. Mr Ilyumzhinov has issued a decree stating that all schoolchildren would study chess, according it the same status in the classroom as mathematics. He maintains that since then juvenile crime has plummeted. "Chess develops the brain, makes you industrious and diligent and able to foresee your next step", he says. Even issues of faith are overshadowed by the game in Russia's only Buddhist republic (the Kalmyks originate from central Mongolia). As one presidential aide put it: "No one gets anywhere ... unless they can play chess."

Ruthless determination is the hallmark of Mr Ilyumzhinov's curriculum vitae. A millionaire in his late twenties, with an import-export business in the last Soviet years, he won the republic's presidency in 1993 after illegally promising \$100 to every voter. When he wanted to dump his legislature, he paid it to dissolve itself, ushering in one that gave him still greater powers. Opposition opinion was

The federal authorities in Moscow paid little attention. Why should they? The President was a Yeltsin loyalist, whose electorate could always be trusted, as one official wryly put it, to "vote accurately" when it came to choosing the occupant of the Kremlin.

When stories of high-living and fleets of Rolls-Royces

reached their ears, tax inspectors arrived to probe his income, which he declared as \$1.1m. He invited the television cameras in, entertained them generously, and gave them a prize stallion. They left without

It is this street wisdom that Mr Ilyumzhinov is drawing on to pursue his dream of building a self-governing city as the forum for international chess contests. He has a missionary's zeal, being a former champion of the republic and president of the World Chess Federation, which, though there has been a split, retains its claim to be the sport's governing body. Last year, he hosted the world championship match between Gata Kamsky and Anatoly Karpov; this September, the Olympiad contest will be held in Kalmykia.

Construction of Chess City has already begun. Luxury houses are beginning to sprout on a dusty site in south-eastern Elista, the republic's modest capital. The plans include three luxury hotels, an aquacentre, homes for 5,000 people, a chess academy and a grand central square. The promotional literature foresees a Utopia - a "cradie of highest achievements of human genius".

The city, whilst still subject to republican and federal law. will have a 10-person parliament to make local laws under a "king", or mayor, and "queen", the prime minister. The president also wants it to be an economic free zone. "I want to see if it works," he says.

The development is headed by a Russian-Serb joint venture but, in the end, it is the work of a man whose creed is that of most of the ruling élite that has occupied the ruins of the Soviet Union. 'I am neither communist, nor democrat. I am a capitalist," he says. In Kalmykia, that makes this particular chess fiend a king.



Opening gambit: Kirsan Ilyumzhinov (centre) and FIDE world chess champion Anatoly Karpov (right) looking on at a party as a man in traditional Mongolian costume prepares to throw a spear

Race row simmers at SA school

Riot police fired a stun grenade to halt a confrontation between white and black parents at a formerly white high school in the South African town of Vryburg. White parents attacked black pupils with whips after 100 black students held three white school officials hostage a day earlier at Vryburg High School. Police freed the hostages on Monday. The pupils went to the administration offices to protest at the expulsion of five black students for non-payment of fees, according to the chairman of the school ___ AP, Vryburg governing body.

Kidnap hospitality

On the sixth day of a hostage standoff. kidnappers and their three UN captives shared food, wine and camaraderie while negotiators worked toward talks to resolve the crisis. In Moscow, the Foreign Ministry called in Georgia's ambassador to protest at statements suggesting "certain forces in Russia" were behind anassassination attempt against Georgian President Eduard --- AP, Dzhikhaskari Shevardnadze.

Kinshasa tense

Opposition militants in the Democratic Republic of the Congo called for a strike this week to protest at the banishment of their populist leader, Etienne Tshisekedi, from the capital, Kinshasa. Such a strike could lead to a clash with forces of President Laurent Kabila, who has banned political activity since seizing power in the former Zaire last May. --- Reuters, Kinshasa

Refugee crisis

About 1.000 refugees a day are flecing Sierra Leone's war into Liberia, the UNHCR agency said. They were fleeing fighting in the towns of Bo and Kenema between troops loyal to the military junta ousted from the capital, Freetown. a week ago and the Nigerian-led ECO-MOG force. --- Reuters, Geneva

De Niro fury

Robert De Niro, questioned this month in Paris by a judge investigating a callgirl ring, says he will never return to France, will tell his friends to stay away. plans to boycott the Cannes Film Festival and will send back the Legion of

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Sombre South Korea hails its new leader

By Richard Lloyd Parry in Secul

KIM DAE JUNG, the former dissident and political prisoner who survived sentences of death, abduction by assassins and defeat in three previous elections, will be inaugurated as president of South Korea this morning in an atmosphere of exultation which only partly masks an atmosphere of deep national apprehension.

He is the first opposition politician to lead South Korea, a sign of political maturity that coincides with the worst economic crisis since the Korean War. Since his narrow election victory, Mr Kim has been an unofficial acting president, eclipsing his predecessor and rival, the discredited Kim Young Sam. But South Koreans have little expectation of any quick solutions to their problems.

As the new president leads victory procession through Seoul tomorrow, the finance ministry will announce a list of

merchant banks to be closed as reject the unpopular deal part of a restructuring insisted on by the IMF in return for a \$60bn (£38bn) rescue package. And, despite recent positive signs from North Korea, Mr Kim vesterday said the state of the South's economy means it will be at least a decade before the peninsula is reunified.

Hotels in Seoul were turning people away last night as the city filled with guests including Michael Jackson, Elizabeth Tayfor and the former Philippines president Cory Aquino, an unusual phenomenon in a country which saw its economy turned upside down by the currency crisis last year. The Korean won is worth barely half what it was a year ago, and South Korea's formerly powerful conglomerates, the chaehol, have been crippled by paying back foreign loans which have doubled in value.

During his election campaign Mr Kim's instinct for populism got the better of him when he hinted that he would

worked out between Kim Young Sam's government and the IMF. However much ordinary South Koreans may have agreed, the markets plunged. Since his victory, however, Mr Kim has more than made amends, affirming the IMF agreement, and brokering compromises between the chaebols and the country's militant unions, which have traditionally supported him but now face

large-scale redundancies. Officials speak of "frontloading" Mr Kim's programme so that the most painful reforms are carried through during the new president's "boneymoon" period. This week he was officially absolved of accusations that he amassed a fortune in bribes, like two former presidents whom he released from prison. But spring is the season of protest in South Korea, as students return to universities. A fortnight ago a general strike organised by the biggest union was called off at the last minute.

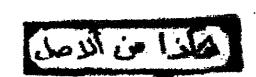
Mossad chief quits over failed assassination

General Danny Yatom resigned yesterday as head of Mossad, Israel's external security service, after criticism by a commission investigating a botched attempt to assassinate a Hamas leader, Khaled Me-

flawed in conception and planning. "The head of the Mossad bears a heavy responsibility in these matters." A majority report left a decision on Gen Yatom's future to the governshal, in Amman in September, ment, but hinted that he should be dismissed. The

It found the operation Prime Minister, Binyamin Netanyahu, declined to dismiss him, but hoped that he would leave in summer after com-

pleting two years in the post. The general's resignation followed a report yesterday of mutiny among senior Mossad officers.



Race row simmer .

at SA school

Kidnap hosiak

Kirishasa terre

Clinton aide fights new Starr subpoena

By Mary Dejevsky in Washington

tortuous

saga of President Clinton, the White House trainee and the American legal system took another twist yesterday when the leading White House media adviser, Sidney Blumenthal, went to court to contest a summons to testify in the case. Mr Blumenthal, a close associate of the Clintons, said he was "outraged" to be called and described the subpoena as a violation of his constitutional rights as a public servant.

The independent prosecutor, Kenneth Starr, wants to question Mr Blumenthal not about the main allegation in the case - that Mr Clinton had an affair with the trainee, Monica Lewinsky, and told her to lie about it - but about a possible sub-plot. The specific allega-

tions against Mr Blumenthal are that he Lewinsky case is developing into a perorchestrated a media campaign against spotlight away from Mr Clinton and on to the role, power and motives of the independent prosecutor.

Mr Starr is demanding that Mr Blumenthal, a former journalist, hand over records of conversations and meetings he had with reporters about the Lewinsky case. But in Washington, the very idea that Mr Blumenthal, a specialist in the art of media spin and massaging reporters, might be compelled to lay bare his strategy and methods, has been greeted with horror as it would threaten the cosy relationship between politics

and media that makes the US capital tick. The mini-contest between Mr Blumenthal and the prosecutor's office illustrates the extent to which the Monica

sonal confrontation between President Mr Starr that was designed to move the Clinton and the independent prosecutor. Kenneth Starr, with aides and supporters ranged on either side. The Clinton camp, led by Hillary Clinton, regards Mr Starr as politically motivated - out to get the President by fair means or foul. They have accused his office of allowing, if not encouraging leaks of evidence damaging to Mr Clinton.

Mr Starr's supporters contend that he is only doing the job he was appointed to do: investigate allegations about the legality of Mr Clinton's conduct, first in the Whitewater land deal in Arkansas, and more recently in the Lewinsky case. Some of his recent moves, however whether or not they were projected through Mr Blumenthal's lens - have attracted widespread opprobrium.

They include the aggressive questioning of Monica Lewinsky's mother, Marcia Lewis, about her daughter's relationship with the President. Ms Lewis broke down after two days on the stand and her lawyer is now petitioning for her to be relieved of any further obligation to testify on grounds of ill-health. The decision to have a mother testify about her daughter, while quite legal, has been condemned.

But harsh and distasteful methods have not been the exclusive preserve of the prosecutor's office. The Washington Post has given details of the line of inquiry being pursued by Mr Clinton's defence team in the sexual harassment case brought by Paula Jones. According to the Post, every aspect of Ms Jones's private life is being investigated. Former lovers, colleagues and employers have been turned up, all directed at presenting her as promiscuous and unreliable. That trial is set to come to court in Arkansas in

Back in Washington, the Clinton By Phil Davison team may not be displeased with the multiplying subplots in the Lewinsky investigation, despite Mr Blumenthal's President Bill Clinton will today indignation. They serve to delay the star i tour a tornado-ravaged belt of appearances in the case - expected tes- Florida, close to Walt Disney timony from Ms Lewinsky herself and . World, where a dozen twisters perhaps also from Mr Clinton - and keep the public happily distracted. The current mood - more redolent : Monday.

of a spectator sport than lofty legal argument - was summed up in reactions aster worse, in terms of human minded lawyer that his client was run- which devastated Miami and twisters tore through the area asleep. In addition, the tornados, fixed homes, mainly wooden, ning out of money and needed a legal southern Florida in 1992, killing around lam on Monday but pho- unlike the slower-moving phefund. Laughter, rather than tears, was the 32 people, including some in

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processor with dual



Luciano Pavarotti with Aretha Franklin and members of the group Boyz II Men in New York yesterday, after the opera singer was named Person of the Year by the charity Musicare for his philanthropy

Super-scribe genius, or baleful manipulator?

Depending on who you talk to, Sidney Blumenthal is a media genius or a malign manipulator, writes Mary Dejevsky. In the White House, where he is a reportedly highly paid communications aide, he is a resented parvenu or a valued member of the team.

A longtime journalist, as a reporter for the Washington Post, New Republic magazine, and most recently The New Yorker, he is a close associate of Hillary Clinton. It is she, the word goes, who recruited him to the White House last June, after a flurry of rumours that he was leaving The New Yorker.

Aged 49 and a Chicago native, he is seen as a staunch supporter of the Clintons, prompting the quip that when he ioined the White House staff he would be paid for doing what he had previously been doing for free. He is an Anglophile, credited with "discovering" Tony Blair in a profile for The New Yorker and smoothing the first encounters between the Clintons and the Blairs.

In the Washington political context, been given responsibility for millennium stand him in good stead as he grapples ident as to his adviser.



Sidney Blumenthal: Never fails to elicit strong feelings

with what could become a landmark legal case. He is suing an exponent of Internet journalism, Matt Drudge - who broke news of the Lewinsky allegations - for \$30m (£18m) for insinuating that he beat his wife. The report appeared on Mr Blumenthal's first day at the White House and he sees the allegation as a deliberate smear. The White House is he is regarded as an intellectual. He has backing him in his suit, which could establish whether reports on the Internet of press freedom around the world as other published material - a subject that a personal crusade. This sideline could may be of as much interest to the Pres-

Florida counts cost of tornado disaster

killed at least 38 people within a

The death toll made the dis-Louisiana and the Bahamas. to their world-renowned instal- movie Twister, came virtually out

jured in Monday's catastrophe in tating to tourism, officials adthe Orlando area and dozens, mostly mobile home owners, were still unaccounted for.

Florida tourism officials were counting their blessings that the chain of tornados narrowly missed the region's popular tourist draws - Disney World, Sea World and the Universal Studios theme park. No tourists would

As it turned out, all were open for business as usual vesterday, with laughing children enjoying the rides and attractions on a hot, sunny day.

Many left homeless complained of the lack of warning. Officials said warnings went out on local radio and television stations tographs of the probable damage nomena seen in the Hollywood

More than 250 people were in- lations would have been devas- of nowhere, hit the ground quickly and moved on, they added.

Dusk-to-dawn curfews were put into effect in damaged areas to prevent looters vesterday and local county officials invoked emergency laws to stop profiteering in generators, batteries. water and food. Hospitals appealed for blood to help treat the injured.

While most casualties were in were torn apart, with cars and dumped into living rooms.

De Niro fury

Refugee crisis

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Blair ties British colours to the US mast

TONY BLAIR yesterday signalled that the crisis over Iraq had cemented a closer relationship between himself and President Bill Clinton by telling MPs he "thanked heaven" for taken by the United States the readiness of the United when he briefed MPs on the States to "stand up and be diplomatic deal signed by Sadcounted".

crisis had shown that Britain was UN, caused Labour MPs who "strong with the United States. strong in Europe". And he made it clear Britain would back America in an air strike on his backing for Mr Clinton. Iraq if it became necessary.

Prime Minister pledges support for future military action as crisis cements 'special relationship'. Colin Brown reports The warmth of the Prime

Minister's praise for the lead dam Hussein and Kofi Annan. The Prime Minister said the the Secretary General of the had opposed the war to shake their heads in disagreement.

WEDNISCOAY TOTAL

Mr Blair was unequivocal in and he denied it would disrupt the world," Mr Blair said.

ropean partners, in spite of lieve it is important that we have Saddam back down, Mr Blair shortages of food and medical to this agreement. We are not their apparent relievations to the same statement of the same statement. support air strikes.

Britain has a good and strong there and willing to stand up and be counted when there are is strong with the US, strong in difficult situations that arise in Europe."

their apparent reluctance to an American administration told MPs if the Americans supand an American people who "I am proud of the fact that are not isolationist but will to take on responsibilities. I further relationship with the United believe that the strength of our sure that would continue to be States of America. Thank heav-relationship is in no way an imens that the Americans are pediment to Europe acting in a more concerted way, so Britain

Stressing the threat of force to undermine Saddam. He also

ported a strike he would back them. "I am pleased to say we bypass the Iraqi regime and do have had a united position. I am more in that regard". the case."

While avoiding triumphalism, Mr Blair said the UN

supplies in Iraq that the UN was "looking at ways in which we can

said: "While the agreement signed in Baghdad is welcome. it is not in itself enough." Sadwould "do what we can" to as- dam remained "an evil, brutal sist the opposition forces in Iraq dictator", he said. "We will not tolerate any repetition of the

He added: "I personally be- had been essential to make told MPs concerned about the Iraqi behaviour which has led going to play more elaborate diplomatic games that allow Saddam Hussein to thwart the inspections regime which has

In his statement, Mr Blair now been agreed." William Hague, the Tory leader, joined MPs on all sides in congratulating the Government on its firm stance. He told Mr Blair: "We have always made clear our undivided sup-

port for the position of the Goverument and of the US." • Paris (AP) - The French Prime Minister Lionel Jospin yesterday endorsed the agreement reached with Iraq. He told the French parliament that France, which pushed for a diplomatic solution since the stand-off began, would give the accord its approval. "This agreement responds in a satisfactory way to the expectations of the international community and will enjoy the support of France," Mr Jospin said.

What the UN and Baghdad agreed

Key points in the agreement reached between UN Secretary-General Koff Annan and Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz ■ The government of Iraq has made a written commitment to provide "immediate, unrestricted and unconditional" access for UN inspectors to all sites suspected of making weapons in Iraq if fully implemented, this should allow international inspectors to find and destroy all chemical, biological and nuclear weapons; find and destroy the missiles to deliver those weapons; and to institute a system for longterm monitoring to make sure Iraq does not build more.

■ The agreement applies to all sites in Iraq. including eight disputed presidential palaces, which were among areas to which UN weapons inspectors previously had been denied access.

■ Senior diplomats will be appointed by the UN Secretary-General in consultation with the UN Special Commission for Iraq and the International Atomic Energy Agency to accompany weapons experts inspecting the eight palace sites. No deadline or limits on the number of visit to the sites are included in the agreement.

■ The "special group" appointed by Mr Annan will operate under the established procedures of Unscom and IAEA as well as under "specific, detailed procedures which will be developed, given the special nature of the presidential sites, in accordance with relevant Security Council resolutions." There was no indication in the document what those as yet undeveloped procedures will entail, a potential trouble-spot.

■ The UN reiterated the commitment of all member-states to respect Iraq's sovereignty and territorial integrity. ■ While there were no time lines for lift-

ing economic sanctions imposed by the UN more than seven years ago, the agreement says that lifting them "is obviously of paramount importance" to the Iradi people the Iraqi government.

■ The agreement notes the progress achieved by weapons inspectors in various disarmament areas, and the need to intensify efforts in order to complete its mandate. The Security Council has said that once completed, sanctions could be lifted. Towards the goal of finishing the task, the document says the UN and Iraq agree to improve their co-operation and efficiency.



Caught in the middle: An Iraql boy sitting between a soldier and a woman holding a portrait of Saddam Hussein at a demonstration of 300 people outside the United Nations headquarters in Baghdad yesterday

Misery and hardship: the darker side of UN sanctions

Children are dying as doctors find it impossible to buy drugs to cure them. By Robert Fisk in Baghdad

Assistant Secretary General Denis Halliday - the bearded and balding Irishman who beads the UN's oil-for-food programme in Iraq - paid a visit to four small Iraqi children suffering from leukaemia in the Sad-rent will cost a further minimum \$6bn. dam Hussein City Hospital.

the drugs to treat them and I got involved with them," Mr Halliday says in his to get the drugs they required - some from Jordan, one from northern Iraq, which means it was probably smuggled in from Turkey. Then I dropped in on Christmas Eve to see the children in their ward. Two were already dead. You know, the doctors who look after these children are incredible characters - you can imagine the effect on them of not having what they need to heal their patients."

Mr Halliday is pelpebly torn by his task of distributing food and medicine to 23 million Iraqis, all of whom are being punished and some of whom are being left to die in appalling hospital conditions because of Iraq's refusal to submit to full UN arms inspections. At the same time as he was seeking drugs for the leukaemia children. Halliday wrote an impassioned letter to UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan, complaining that what the UN was doing in Iraq was causing untold suffering to innocent people.

"I wrote that what we were doing was undermining the moral credibility of the UN," he says. "I found myself in a moral dilemma. It seemed to me that what we were doing was in contradiction to the human rights provision in the UN's own charter." It was Halliday's idea to permit Iraq to export more oil - to increase it from US \$2bn every six months to \$4bn. "I started selling the idea to the Russian, Chinese and French ambassadors here and they were quick to take it up and convey it to their capitals. The fact that this was accomplished

makes my conscience a bit easier." But Iraq, whose UN sales are strictly monitored - 30 per cent goes to compensate individuals, companies and countries which suffered from Saddam Hussein's 1990 invasion of Kuwait - has not been allowed to use its oil income to repair or maintain the decrepit and war-damaged machinery in its oil fields. Allowed to export more oil - it might have been permitted to sell more than \$5bn every six months - it is deprived of the means of doing so. When Mr Halliday accompanied Mr Annan to see the Iraqi Vice President Taha Yassin Ramadan at the weekend, Mr Ramadan complained bitterly that he had no spare parts to in-

crease the oil flow. Now a commission of experts is to enter Iraq to see how much it will cost to restore Iraq's pumping and refining facilities. But a far more terrible fate awaits the Iraqi people. With its electrical power stations producing less than 40 per cent of capacity, water and sanitation systems are on the

Not long before Christmas last year, UN ber gloves during operations, their wards without air conditioning or clean water. Without electrical pumps, water is falling in the pipes and sewage is being sucked into

"The government here used to en-"The doctors told me they couldn't get courage the use of infant formula, and infant formula with contaminated water is a real killer." Mr Halliday says. "In the south, cramped Baghdad office, the walls hang- water and sanitation have broken down. ing with cheap Arab rugs. "With a World Health Organisation colleague, I managed can bombing [in 1991], probably other damage during the Iran-Iraq war. The reason the Iraqis were slow to move on the oil-forfood programme (it was almost two years before Iraq agreed to the system) is because they see this as a national humiliation. They're being given handouts, and it's their own money.

Mr Halliday is a Dublin-born Quaker who worked in Kenya and Iran before joining the UN's bureaucracy in New York; and he is a man who has no great trust in the sanctions which he is helping to impose. "I think the international community has got to find some alternative to sanctions,"

The government here used to encourage the use of infant formula, and infant formula with contaminated water is a killer'

be says. "... we need to find a way of separating the leadership from the people. One way is to stop arms sales. If there could really be control on sales of arms, there could really be controls."

Most of the rejected Iraqi industrial requests are turned down by the UN because of possible dual purpose use. "The Iraqi director general of railways was telling me the other day that he ordered some spare parts for his diesel locos in 1988 and paid million French francs for them. Because of the sanctions, he hasn't got them yet. It's a typical dual purpose problem - trains can be used to transport soldiers." Area electric power generators in Iraq are desperately in deed of turbine parts, each of which has to be custom-manufactured. The UN has been delaying supplies.

But Mr Halliday worries more about the long-term future of Iraqis, those who survive the UN's punishing sanctions. "There are men and women now in their 20s and 30s and 40s who have known little more than the Iran-Iraq war, the Gulf war and the sanctions. They see themselves as surrounded by unfriendly people, and a very unsympathetic America and Britain. They are out of touch ... They have no access to Western television. And these are the people who are going to have to run this country in the future. They are feeling alienated and very Iraqi-introverted. Their point of breakdown. Hospitals in Basra are next-door neighbours are going to have a filthy, their doctors forced to re-use rub-

Air-strike force remains on alert

By Raymond Whitaker in Ahmed al-Jaber airbase, Kuwart

"I AM not going to let my folks change their commitment until Saddam Hussein complies with the written words of the agreement he has made," said Colonel Kevin Smith, commander of the US Air Force's 49th Operations Group, which includes all the 12 Stealth fighters in Kuwait. "We can't afford to relax our commitment. The people here hope we don't have to maintain this military build-up indefinitely, but they're also realistic. He hasn't followed through yet."

Stealths. "This is a national treasure," said Colonel Smith. "We won't sell it to anybody. This is the one we trust to go against the heaviest defences, last time it attacked all the important targets around Baghdad." That was during the Gulf war in 1991, which

Prime Health

left him in power in Iraq, still trying to develop weapons of mass destruction and conceal them from United Nations inspectors.

For the moment, following the agreement signed in Baghdad on Monday, it seems that force will not have to be used again. The military build-up in the Gulf is continuing, however: extra American troops, now expected to number 10.000 rather than the 6,000 previously announced. continue to arrive in Kuwait, and the destroyer HMS Nottingham, part of the Royal Navy contingent at sea, docked here yesterday to take part in celebrations of the Behind him crouched one of his seventh anniversary of the liberation of the country tomorrow.

At Ahmed al-Jaber air base, the apron is crammed with US and Kuwaiti aircraft - Stealths, F-18 fighters with their distinctive V-shaped tails, F-16 fighter-bombers and A-10 "Warthog" tank-busters, which

drove President Saddam out of Kuwait but wrought havoc on Iraqi armour in 1991. is estimated at around \$200m a month, and There is no room for any more, and equipment and supplies have to be unloaded on a taxiway. Lieutenant-Colonel Dick Rayburn, 49, a Vietnam veteran, has been in Kuwait two weeks and has already been over Iraq five times in his F-16, enforcing the southern "no-fly" zone. "I don't know how long we'll be doing this, but I expect

it'll be a while," he said. Much the same comment comes at a more senior level when it is asked how long the augmented American and British forces will remain in the Gulf. "The importance of the military build-up doesn't stop because of a news report," said a US military spokesman. Off the record, however, it is intimated that the commitment could remain close to its present level for several months. Although Kuwait is paying the running expenses of the forces on its soil, the extra cost to the US taxpayer

it will be important to maintain public sup-

port at home as the immediate crisis fades. The best way to use force is to show it without having to use it," Kofi Annan said on his return to the UN yesterday, and Colonel Robert Awtrey, the most senior USAF officer in Kuwait, was keen to do just that. "I want to show you the combat capability we have here," he said. "While we are happy a diplomatic solution may be in the works, obviously we are all concerned to make sure it's a long-term solution."

Back at the apron, Major Reid Christopherson was showing off the destructive power of the A-10, which can fire 60 footlong shells a second. "Everyone's very relieved that it's being resolved diplomatically, because we'd rather be deployed as a peaceful deterrent than fight. Certainly, though, this gives the appearance of being a long-term commitment."

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Deal allows weapons inspectors to stay, but only if they brush up their manners

By David Usborne n New York

AT THE heart of the agreement negotiated by Kofi Annan, the UN Secretary General, with the leadership in Iraq, is a care- at the centre of the process" of fully-weighed and vital equation: Unscom, the Special Commis-

sion established after the Gulf war in 1991 to root out biological, chemical and nuclear weapons of mass destruction in Iraq, will keep its job. But how his post, at least for the time it goes about its business will being. change.

the survival of Unscom was a sine qua non of any new arrangement struck with Saddam Hussein, Indeed, Sir John

Weston, the British ambassador Unscom to continue exactly as to the UN, said after yesterday's consultations with Mr Annan that he would be advising London first and foremost that the

work of Unscom would "remain weapons inspection. Moreover, it looks as though the man in charge of Unscom since last summer, the former Australian ambassador to the UN, Richard Butler, will retain

Iraq has made no secret of As far as Britain and the its disdain for Mr Butler, and United States were concerned, there had been doubts even in the Security Council about the

wisdom of allowing him to continuc his work. No one, however, expects

before. Most obviously, Mr Annan

has agreed with Saddam that when it comes to inspecting the eight presidential sites that were at the root of the latest crisis, the Unscom inspectors will no longer be allowed to do the sniffing alone. Instead, they will have to be accompanied by diplomats from member countries of the Security Council.

Members if this new subgroup of Unscom will be chosen by Mr Annan and will be headed by a new commissioner, who will also be appointed by the Secretary General.

More subtle, however, is the message contained within para- and not push their weight graph two of the agreement: around."

that the UN - and by extension Unscom - will try harder to "respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Iraq".

This is one part of the agreement that was giving the United States administration pause for thought yesterday. Washington is fearful that it will provide Saddam with a loophole to impede the actual implementation of the pact.

But Mr Annan was clear in his press briefing yesterday about what he thinks the provision means: Unscom must brush up its manners. "We on the UN side have to handle Iraq and the Iraqis with a certain



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Exit stage left: the big cheese of people's theatre

Thanks to one man's vision, theatre has thrived in the Potteries and a community has found its voice. Jeffrey Wainwright bids farewell to a well-rounded talent

The evanescence of theatre means that memories can rarely be held up to scrutiny. They are often sketchy, and hindsight might not grant them any great significance in theatrical history or even within their immediate context. Many of my first, and so most important, recollections date back to in-the-round in the Town Hall, Newcastleunder-Lyne. It was there that I saw the petrifyingly sexy Dona Martyn as Strindberg's Miss Julie, and some hilarious new comedies by "Roland Allen", who doubled as the company's leading actor, one Alan Avckbourn.

In 1962 this magical little arena re-established itself in a converted cinema, the Victoria, across the border in Stoke-on-Trent - a space that soared into immensity one night as Ron Daniels and Fiona Walker "let time try" their love as Orlando and Rosalind. That, Peter Cheeseman recalls, was when actors could rarely sing

Opening nights crackled with the electricity of real antagonists watching themselves portrayed on stage - and watching one another across the auditorium

properly, and so a young Ben Kingsley as torical ones have dealt with the pottery and Amiens was a prodigy.

I remember too the anxiety on the face of Christopher Martin as a young pikeman awaiting the Royalist cavalry charge at Naseby in Staffordshire Rebels, the second of the "musical documentaries" that were to make the Vic's reputation. Daniels, Kingsley, Robert Powell and Anton Vogel were also in the cast, but somehow I best remember Martin, whose connection with the Vic still continues today, singing out "The gentry are all round, stand up now,

stand up now." The vision of that first theatre-in-theround belonged to the late Stephen Joseph (after whom Ayckbourn was to name his Scarborough base), but when all immediate hope of a purpose-built theatre disappeared, it was Peter Cheeseman who, in 1962, founded the Vic. He has been director there ever since and will have over 140 productions to his name when his valedictory production of The Tempest opens next

to Cheeseman in terms of long-term devotion to a single theatre and to its place in its own community. Having found his patch in the Potteries, he has stuck to three commitments: performances in the round: a strong repertoire of classics and new work; the early 1960s and to a temporary theatre- and close identification with the history and present problems of North Staffordshire.

The first of these meant that in 1986 the district gained Europe's first purposebuilt theatre-in-the-round, 605 seats within a handsome octagonal building. There were some, Cheeseman recalls, who had said, "You'll want a proper theatre now, Peter," but he had the authority and experience to insist on what turned out to be as fine a space as any in the country.

Along with the standard of actors - they can all sing now - Cheeseman thinks that repertoire has been the area of greatest improvement in regional theatre in his time. He is unsentimental about the "drivel" of

old-style weekly rep -"all thrillers and West End comedies". His first season, 1962-63, featured five new plays, including work by Ayckbourn and Alan Plater, along with Beckett, Pinter, Anouilh and Bolt. Twenty years later the mix was much the same: new work from Peter Terson and Ken Campbell alongside Mother Courage, The Merchant of Venice and

Astoundingly, up to 1986 "old" Vic's shows were new work.

But Cheeseman and his theatre are best known for the 11 documentaries on local history and local issues. Besides Rebels, the his-

mining industries in the area, Methodism, the Second World War, and the federation of the Six (not five) Towns. Most celebrated of all was The Knotty, with its famous surveyors' pole-dance illustrating the branching of the railway across North Staffs. In 1974, Fight for Shelton Bar!, a con-

tribution to the struggle to keep a local steelworks open, was the first on topical issues. The opening nights of The Dirty Hill (1990) - arguing both sides of a proposal for an open-cast site - and Nice Girls (1993) - on the efforts of women to save Hem Heath colliery - crackled with the special electricity of the real antagonists watching themselves portrayed on stage - and watching one another across the auditorium.

Cheeseman has always seen these shows as "the most useful political job the theatre can do - to reflect the life of the district in such a way that we, its voters in a democracy, really believe that we are important and that important things happen here". In subject-matter the documentaries

No one in regional theatre comes close never much bothered to interest anyone beyond Uttoxeter (though several were in fact invited abroad) but formally they advanced enormously one of the major styles of post-war theatre. Cheeseman himself makes no great claim for this and honours a variety of inspirations, especially the American "living newspaper" theatre, Joan Littlewood's Oh, What a Lovely War, Charles Parker's magnificent radio ballads, the episodic and mixed-media style of Brecht, and, above all, the cinema. But this mix of narration, mime, song and improvised illusion, along with dramatic scenes, has now entered the bloodstream of contemporary theatre.

> One aspect Cheeseman does claim as the Vic's own is the "puritanism" with which he rejected textual invention in favour of the "authenticity" of primary sources, especially recorded speech. "Listen, listen," Charles Chilton told him, "to the richness of people's speech". Many of the Vic's most moving effects have relied on the interpolation of the recorded voice of the real person we are watching portrayed on stage, so providing arresting evidence of the strange doubleness of theatrical illusion: its existence in its own right and its respect for the outside world.

> Sadly, though, Cheeseman is leaving his post more troubled than fulfilled. The chronic underfunding of the arts may, he believes, mean the irrecoverable loss of as many as 10 regional theatres this year, "the most important cultural institutions in the country". Unable to compete on price, hopelessly outgunned in marketing, the theatre is losing the battle for young audiences to the monoculture of the multiplexes. Having seen at the beginning of his eer the development of a student audience eager for the kind of repertoire he describes, fostered by teachers with the requisite resources and motivation, he now sees that same audience dwindling to the point where it is virtually impossible to risk new work. The understanding that theatre is part of "education, education", as well as the base of a whole industry whose continuity runs unbroken from Saturdaymorning children's workshops to Oscar nominations, is being lost.

But Cheeseman continues to fight for the theatre at every level. The day I met him, in his role as chair of the National Council for Drama Training, he had just entertained officials from Baroness Blackstone's department in an effort to convince the Government of the need for statutory grant support to ensure that talent, not ability to pay, decides who goes to drama school. Asked what it takes to do his job, he first cites a nearby address - his is "230 paces away" and you can imagine him slipping across at midnight to check the bar's stock of lemon slices; more seriously, he says it takes "love and thoroughness" - qualities for which I, like countless other regular and occasional theatregoers from the Potteries, have had reason to be grateful

'The Tempest' opens at the New Vic. North Staffs, 4 March: 01782 717962

over the past 36 years.







'Love and thoroughness': that's Peter Cheeseman's recipe for theatrical success. Inset left: Cheeseman with a miner and cast member after recording underground for 'Miner, Dig the Coal'. Above right: Cheeseman directing the 1965 'Staffordshire Rebels' (above left), featuring Ben Kingsley (second from left) Main photograph: Denis Thorpe

Time, gentlemen, please...

Paul Taylor raises a glass to the rare humanity of Conor McPherson's bar-room vision, The Weir'

Arriving home from the Royal Court's main-stage transfer of Conor McPherson's superb The Weir, I switched on the television to discover David Mamet laying down the law about drama on Face to Face. People only talk, be all of Falls declared, because they want something from someone. Well, With the state of this may be the case with the power battles in his own brilliant, attenuated world. But McPherson's play - mediating, with a generous supple warmth, between humour and tragedy, the comically small-minded and the pamfully large-spirited - is a rich The said of the said demonstration that Mamet's

The control of the co dictum is a partial truth only. with the pignit There would be a way of summarising The Weir that made it sound like the kind of male com-



petition Mamet understands so the local colour and (though well. The virtually men-only dothere's no relationship and he's main of a bleak Sligo pub married) to show her off. where the fact that the ladies' loo is bust is of little inconvenience to a clientele of ageing bachelors - is awoken from its sad, amiable torpor one dark windy night by

the arrival of an attractive young

Dublin woman, Valerie (excel-

lent Julia Ford). She has just

bought a house nearby from Fin-

bar (Des McAleer), a middle-

aged flash botelier and son of the

A bald résumé would indicate that Finbar and the regulars strive to impress Valerie with mountingly disturbing (and self-revealing) ghost yarns and that she, in a sense, turns the tables on them with a story of deeply distressing personal loss, made all the more unbearable Ilm Norton's consummately actby (imagined?) spirit contact. ed Jack, a silver-haired bachclor

district, who wants to show her But what makes The Weir a triumph for its 26-year-old author - and for Ian Rickson, who directs with such atmospheric in-

Ghost

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truths rise

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Photograph:

making systematic judgements. It's true that there is a needling tension between McAleer's swanking hotelier (the insecurity of whose ego is hinted at in his ghost story) and

timacy and humane tact - are

the things that stop one from

garage-owner and droll card who resents being condescended to as a curiosity for tourists. But a generous, disguised-as-aninsuit joke on his part is able to defuse the situation so no one loses face. McPherson is not out to score points or to diminish anybody. With their stunted horizons, the men are indeed sad, but when Brendon Coyle's taciturn barman pours unfamiliar white wine for Valerie into a half-pint glass and holds it to the light as if waiting for it to form a head, it's the courtly consideration of the gesture as well as its naivety that hits you.

And Mamet's limited theory is beautifully belied by the final phrase in which Jack tells Valerie how, as a young man, he threw away his one chance of love. Oh, sure, since he's lonely and now a bit drunk, it does give him the chance to clutch her hand, but it's not just of himself he is thinking when, at some cost, he heaves this story out and Valerie, estranged from her husband in a remote new territory, knows that too.

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London comes of age

Lurid leather, time travel and the trouser boot - it's adult, feisty, and very, very Brit. Tamsin Blanchard calls it Adult Frock

YCU'VE heard of Adult Ori- girl needs to make her mark. ened Rock. Well now, fresh Likewise, Suzanne Clements from London Fashion Week and Inacio Ribeiro built on comes AOF: Adult Oriented their signature: an eccentric Pipck. The British Fashion brat mix of sophisticated depick are coming of age - and are their clothes.

London is all about celerating individuality and diference rather than chasing the ame hem length or trouser hape. The designers are doing bethan jackets with heir own thing; five years after Marks & Spencer sponsored the reveal puff of white irst New Generation designers n March 93 - including Abe Hamilton, Alexander Mc-Queen, Copperwheat Blundell, Paul Frith and Sonnentag Mulligan - many of those names have now become established in their own rights and have had time to solidify their businesses and feel confident enough to know who they are, what their This time, they came in ignatures are, and where they

of his career so far needs lit-tartan, tailored sheepskin e explanation. But there are (again) and lace was a good nany other success stories too. smattering of folk embroidery opperwheat Blundell showed and gyspy trim. It is just this s strongest collection to date style of eclectic design and is week. It received the finest ecolade a collection can have. nd was declared "absolutely not on for next season". There as lots of sheepskin - the ibric for winter 98 as seen at lerardi, Gaster and Betty Jackon (below) - and there was a ew invention, the trouser boot, knee length leather boot with ts very own trouser leg to covr it. Paul Frith's business has een growing steadily too, with 1 little help from Bhs which sponsors his shows and has had a hit on its hands with the capsule collection he designs for it. Tracy Mulligan, formerly of Sonnentag Mulligan, presented her first solo collection and it was a winner with both press and buyers, cool elegant and chic, words not often associated with British fashion.

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Antonio Berardi, Clements Ribeiro, Pearce Fionda, Sonja Nuttall and Julien Macdonald have all also graduated from the M&S sponsorship scheme. And they all came into their own this week, focusing on what they do best. From Antonio Berardi we had killer leather. From the New York West Side Story-style set with pedestrian crossing lights flashing "Walk. Don't Walk". And walk they did. from Michelle Hicks' first march into the audience wearing a leather biker outfit in orange, bubble gum pink and white leather, ingenious-

ly intercut as only Berardi knows how. The collection for winter was a new step forward for is feisty, sexy and high-voltage as althe 28-year-old. It ways. But it is also resolutely modern. Best of all was a pair stonewashed denim jeans

inset down the side seams with a strip of pink Swarovski crystals. Casual, sexy. effortless - and all a

sign and naïve surface detail. The theme of the collection is Orlando – a bit of time-travelling took us back to the 16th century: Elizasleeve seams slit to cotton shirt undervere tailoring, and opulent one-shouldered drapes of tartan, emboidered and appliqued coats, and the out which it simply would not be Clements Ribeiro. sumptuous solid colour blocks of orange, scarlet Alexander McQueen shows and pink. Muscling in for is collection tonight. The sto- space amid the cashmere, bravura that overseas buyers have come to expect from London.

Clements Ribeiro's freedom to be creative has been assured by its deal with Dorothy Perkins for whom it designs a high street capsule each season. So too, Pearce Fionda has found a more mainstream market with help from Debenhams, leaving it free to do what it wants to with its own collection. It focused on byzantine eveningwear with exotic mixes of fabrics and textures - rich brocade, shiny satin, silk jacquards - adult and exotic.

Sonja Nuttall has also come of age. She has just signed a backing deal with a British manufacturing company, allowing her to concentrate on design. Her signatures shouting loud and clear are her masculine tailoring, and her huxurious understatement. She also threw in a few lines of crystal sequins, some sparkly knitwear and glittery bobble hats, and some tropical hibiscus prints to lighten up the mix.

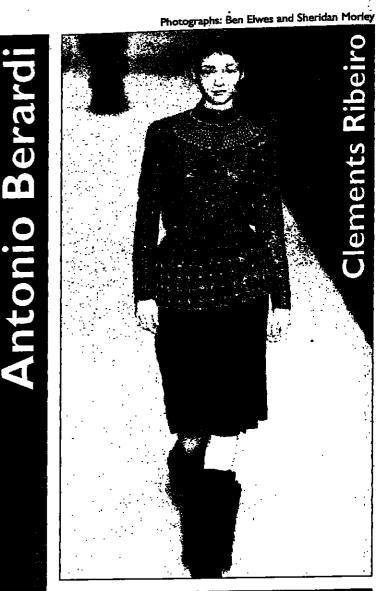
British fashion is a case of quality, not quantity. You do not have to present a 60-piece collection to get noticed. Last season, it took Matthew Williamson just 11 outfits and this time there weren't many more. A firework beaded cocktail dress, a snowflake embroidered coat, and a baby blue cashmere

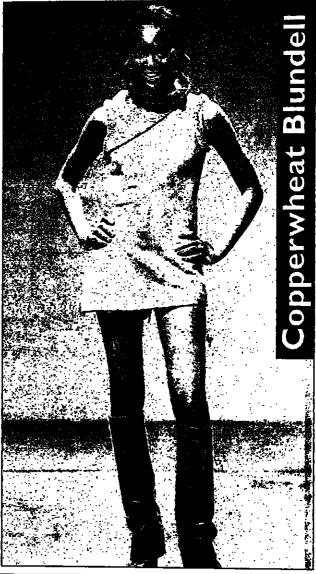
jumper worn with a fuchsia pink beaded skirt is all you need to get the world's most influential stores interested. Williamson's philosophy has been to keep it small and select, the antithesis of the big corporate designers who are interested in quantity first and foremost just like the rest of the British fashion industry, really:

small but perfectly



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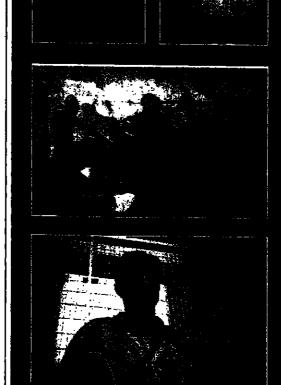






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This week Holly Davies delves into Bella Freud's cupboard to divulge the fashion designer's dressing secret

"IT WOULD have to be and make me look much shoes - I couldn't live without any of them. My favourite pair at the moment are my Stephan Kelian wooden platform clogs which I bought about three years ago. I love them because they're really comfortable

taller. They seem to give everything I wear with them a certain kick. They are a sort of mousey brown and can change the mood of any outfit. You can wear casual baggy checked trousers with them and they somehow

manage to chic it up and make the most masculine of outfits look feminine. This winter I could hardly bear to take them off, but because it was so cold I had to wear socks. I had to walk everywhere really slowly because my feet kept slipping."

THE IMPEDENDENT

Where's the good life? urray

1,500 people a week flee cities for the country, and the Government is worried by the exodus. But as 'Independent' writers explain, home is a state of mind - not just a place





Photograph: John Lawrence

The city: 'It wasn't love at first sight, but now I couldn't leave'

NO ONE pointed out the bus stop when I rented my flat. I first noticed it as I emerged naked from the bathroom and spotted passengers on the top deck peering in. A shock for all concerned, but I soon felt more sorry for weary commuters, ussing me as I enjoyed my first drink of the evening. I was more worried about the consequences of living next door to an Indian restaurant. I couldn't have predicted that the most soothing and soporific sound last thing at night is of other people washing up dishes.

Fast lane: Church St, Stoke Newington

It took me a while to appreciate living in the heart of London. It was hardly love at first sight. At first, I ached to see greenery breaking through the overwhelming greyness. After a childhood filled with summers beside the sea, I almost didn't dare imagine going months without seeing the shoreline when I first arrived aged 22, I actually walked to The Strand, one of London's busiest streets, in the hope of finding some vestige of ocean. I was demoralised to spot not even a seaguil.

London seemed a vast. alienating place in which I had lost my bearings. A place of work, not of leisure or pleasure.

Yet, today, I love it. I'm at home and wonder how I could ever leave. What changed about London for me was the discovcry that I really live in a village. Except my village isn't struggling to keep its post office, having long ago lost its butcher and baker. I need walk no more than 10 minutes from my front door in Stoke Newington to find almost everything necessary for life. You can fall out of bed and into any number of cafes for



O'SULLIVAN

breakfasts that go on all day. There's a deli for lunch, more than a dozen restaurants in one street for dinner.

Those with time on their hands can find endless second-hand book shops for browsing, a jazz club for carousing, a flamenco club for dancing. There are shops that will fix your television, cut your hair, mend your clothes, repair your washing machine, massage your body. There is a video store for the mainstream, another for the esoteric. A boutique for thin sophisticates, a singing pub for boozers, smooth

bars for trendies. There is the best of community - you never walk down Stoke Newington Church

STOKE NEWINGTON HIGH STREET. N.16.

Street without bumping into friends. But windows don't squint at every coming and going like they do in the country. You can wallow in the anonymity and liberalism of the city. Lesbians raise their children here, living out the legacy of great non-conformists, such as Daniel Defoe, who lived here and are buried in the huge. spooky graveyard full of mausoleums and gay men picking each other up.

There is a sense of history about city life, its ancient buildings and roads, without the preciousness of thatched Tudor cottages. Daniel Defoe's only memorial is the slightly dilapidated Defoe Cabs, whose Ethiopian drivers probably miss the significance of the name. The constant influx of such newcomers provides a diversity and vibrancy which makes the all-white villages of Britain dreary in their monotony, al-

most scary in their uniformity. You probably think it's a terrible place to raise children imagine the drug problems, the discarded syringes. Well, yes, they do find a few in the playground in the mornings. And, yes, you do have to avoid dog dirt on the payement. But this place is overrun with young children, so we have a wonderful state-of-the-art playground, with lots of swings, roundabouts and climbing frames, built over an all-weather, safe surface. Ask children whether they would prefer to play in a mud-

dy field: you will find a city lover. Of course, I still miss the sea. There's not much I can do about that. We've covered the garden with pebbles. But there are still no seagulls.

Granny is more likely to be

found queuing for her turn on

the flumes than in her armehair

changed as well. Someone sent



Slow lane: Church St. Hadlow

MEANWHILE, IN CARDBOARD CITY ...

DOWN in Cardboard City the last defiant few remain. There are none of the elaborate temporary structures that once defined the Bullring near Waterloo, only a handful of people huddled round a fire. More than 200 people once made the concrete underpass their home; now it is down to less than 30.

On Monday, Lambeth Council won an eviction order, enabling it to clear the remaining people living in the Bullring roundabout, to make way for a cinema. Yesterday those left were defending their home

amongst the concrete pillars in the dark underpass. Sitting round a brazier they were suspicious and aggressive seeing intruders as a threat to their way of life. "This is our home. You just want to treat us like animals in a zoo," shouted one.

While the life of those sleeping rough is unacceptable to most of us, those who live in Cardboard City feel there is a real sense of community. "People know each other, they have been living together for a long time and it's probably the first time that many of them have had what they feel is a family," says Raekha Prasad of the Big Issue, who befriended some of the residents. "They have named it home."

"People are there from all walks of life, for a whole range of reasons." says Moyra Peralta, a photographer who has been documenting street life since the 1970s and has spent four months in the Bullring. She says that Cardboard City is unique to Britain. "The remaining few who are down there are not happy about being rehoused. They are afraid they are going to lose their bond and their networks. They are feeling terribly upset. They think their whole way of life is going".

Those working to rehouse the homeless say they are trying to do so as sensitively as possible. But those about to be removed remain suspicious. Ms Prasad says: "One guy I spoke to had been there for 15 years said to me 'I know it stinks, I know it's shitty, it may seem like hell to you but we've chosen it'."

--- Glenda Cooper

The Independent/ Scholastic Story of the Year Competition, now in its sixth

successful year, aims to encourage top writing for the very difficult to please six to nine year

scriptwriters have explained how they set about writing compelling narrative. In this, the final

week of the competition, Anne Fine, whose award-winning children's novels include Madam

Doubtfire and GoggleEyes talks to Nicole Yeash about the pitfalls of writing for young readers.

old age group. To help you meet the challenge, some of our most successful novelists and

The country: 'It isn't as lovely as you think - that's why I like it'

WHEN I tell people in London that I live in a village in the middle of rolling countryside, they get misty-eyed. "Oh how love-h," they exclaim. At this point, I can feel myself getting tense. I know they are thinking fresh air, long walks, log fires and roses round the door. Perhaps this comes from reading too much Miss Marple or Enid Blyton. Anyway, it bugs me because life in the country isn't like that at all. Usually I can't help but mention this. "Actually it's not all that lovely, and that's why I like it," I say, with my sweetest smile.

This usually stops the conversation dead, which is fine with me. After 12 years in the Kent village of Hadlow, the country isn't so much a destination as a home and that makes it a much more complicated place. Take the old and picturesque farmhouse that we lived in for years. It was surrounded by apple orchards and horse pastures and, I suppose. it could be called lovely. The blossom was gorgeous, certainly, and the pesticides were not too bad either. You don't get one without the other, the farmer said, and really doesn't everyone have to watch the way the wind blows? As for the pasture, the land had once been a dump and there had been a little problem with methane.

None of this seemed to affect the rodents, of which there were many. You get close to nature when you live in a house without a foundation, and I had got used to the odd plant pushing its way up into the house. But weeding your front room is one thing, discovering you are living in a set for Wind in the Willows



ANN TRENEMAN

another. One day, as I was tapping away at my computer, I looked down and saw Mole looking up. He was small but terrifying. Ratty was not so scary but only because he was usually dead and deposited by the cat at the back door. The mice were everywhere. One Christmas I sat and watched them race to see which could eat the chocolate tree ornaments first.

Wild animals, dead and alive, are part of life. It's cute having hedgehogs galore, but not so fab when one keels over dead in the garage. In the same way, I loved having a Rayburn, but there is nothing romantic about keeping it stoked up with coal. The view from the kitchen window was stress-free

HADLOW Please drive carefully through the village

(pasture, rolling hills etc) but if 🚼 🚜 I'd looked the other way I'd have seen a road filled with articulated lorries.

None of this is meant to be negative. It's just the way it is. The real reason I like living in the country has little do with such things. I like it because it is absolutely silent at night and you can see the stars (and not the street lamps) when you look up. It feels safer, and the countryside is just a short walk through the council estate.

People are always saying that living in the country is good for children, but what they really mean is that it is good for parents. I may spend lots of time commuting each day but I spend very little worrying about the kids. They walk to school and play round the neighbourhood until nightfall. The village school seems fine (though I'm told by others that the one in the next village is much better).

People live where they feel comfortable with the pace, and real time, for me, is in the country. City-dwellers always seem to be going somewhere as quickly as possible. They are used to shops and cafes and pubs being open all the time. They are used to crowds and queues. Everything is possible. nothing denied. Until, that is, they come and visit me. "I know, let's go have a coffee," "C they suggest on a Sunday afternoon. I say there is only one decent café within a 10 mile radius and it is shut all day long. "How about a country pub then?" they suggest. I say that the pubs round here open at 7pm on a Sunday. My friends look aghast. Perhaps, they say, it's time they were getting back.

Your last chance to write the story of the year for six to nine year olds

THE INDEPENDENT Story of the Year 6 # SCHOLASTIC

Win £2,000 and have your story published

and nine are the hardest age group to write for. Many are still struggling with the mechanics of reading. Watch their finger stop halfway across the line. Hear their hesitant "sound-it-outs". So keep it simple. Start at the beginning and move on without any flashbacks or projections. Any subtleties in the time scheme are far more likely to confuse than beguile them.

It's a difficult age to please, too, because of the wide and unpredictable range of knowledge and sophistication. I think it helps to use the journalist's dictum: "Never overestimate the reader's knowledge, and never underestimate his or

CHILDREN of between six her intelligence." You can usually weave the information they need into the story without patronising all those who know it already and think everyone else does.

The business of shifting levels of sophistication is a lot more difficult. There's such a fine line between cashing in on a child's acceptance of the unlikely or the magical, and offering them something they think is "silly". It's hard to get it right. But whereas you might get away with a horse in the garage, for example, you're likely to stretch credibility too far if you try to suggest that Mum filled up the drier without even noticing it. If it's real, keep it real, me a book that began, "A

knitting. These days, huge numbers of grannies still work. and the rest have busy lives. So don't send this fictional child of yours off to Gran for the summer, especially not unaccompanied on a train (since she'd end up in care, not at Margate). Cooks wiping their floury hands on aprons, little girls on freshly scrubbed doorsteps blowing bubbles through clay pipes - all this stuff is back from when television sets still had to warm up, and means nothing to today's child. Remember that attitudes have

mouse ran across the schoolroom floor. All the little girls screamed and jumped on their chairs, and all the boys roared and chased it." She couldn't think why the children's publishers (98 per cent women) weren't keen, and she prohably didn't realise our readers take against this sort of thing

even more quickly than we do. So what do children like? Well, they love to identify with someone or something in the story. It doesn't matter what. It could be another child, or a puppy, or even a lost umbreila. But they do have to care, So tell us, all the way through just what your character is thinking or feeling. Above all, remember that

children's books really matter. It's William and Jennings and the Famous Five who make us readers for ever. And I still miss those glorious miserable wet days my daughters and I spent in the double bed, spreading crumbs and reading, reading, reading. First, me to them, Then, them to me. And, when the youngest was skilled enough, quietly in a row, with the occasional. "Mum. what's this word?" Next time the urge to shop strikes, go to the library instead. Then back to bed, You'll end up better off, and

Anne Finc's latest adult novel Telling Liddy', is published by Bantam, £15.99.

happier. Believe me, so will they.



COMPETITION RULES

Story of the Year 6 offers a 12,000 prize for the winner, with £500 each for two numers up. The top 10 stories will be published in an anthology by Scholastic Children's Books, You are invited to submit spo-You are invited to submit sto-ries of 1,500-2,500 words ries of 1,500-2,500 words which must arrive on or before 28 February 1998 at PO 80X 23302 - LONDON - WC1A (PE You may enter only once and entries must be made by the writer, not on his/her behalf. Eptries must be typewritten, double-spaced and on one side of the paper only. We will not accept stories with illustrations. Planuscripts will not be returned, so please keep a orations. Manuscripts with filusorations. Manuscripts will not
be returned, so please keep a
copy. All entries must be unpublished, but published writers may enter with new
material. Each entry must be
submitted with both a coverpage and tide page. The coverpage must feature the story tide, and the entrant's name, address and stelephone number.
The tide page must feature only
the dide of the story. The story should start on a new page,
and the author's name must not
feature on any of these pages,
so that all entries can be judged
anonymously. The winning story will be published in The final judging of the competition
which concludes on 22 May
1998. The top three stories and

up to 10 others will be pub-ished in the ammin, in the an-chology Story of the Year 6 by Scholastic Children's Books. The competition is not open to employees of, or relatives of employees of, or relatives of employees of Scholastic Ltd or Newspaper Publishing pic or anyone connected with the competition. Proof of posting camer be accepted as proof of delivery. No responsibility can be accepted for entries which are delayed, damaged, missiel or wrongly delivered. The judges' decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into. Entry granes to Scholastic Ltd the exclusive right to publish an entrant's story in all formats throughout the world for the full legal term of copyright. A copy of the form of the contract may be obtained on application to Scholastic I of the Scholastic I of th The competition is not be obtained on application to Scholastic Led. By submitting an Schotastic Ltd. By submixing an entry an entrant agrees, to be bound by the terms of and to sign this agreement if called upon to do so. Any story chosen for publication in the anthology that does not win one of the top three cash prizes will receive a fee of £200. Any entry not submitted in the form specified will be deemed invalid. If your story is not published in the anthology or in the newspaper by the end of December 1998, these rights revert to you. Entry into this competition implies acceptance of these rules.



"It isn't as lovely as mats why like it



Elisabeth Murray

ELISABETH MURRAY was noticed, and in 1938 she was inthe eldest granddaughter of Sir vited to Girton College, Cam-James Murray, founding editor of the Oxford English Dictionary, her life of whom. Caught in the

Betty's" father, Harold (1868-1955), was James's eldest son. As an inspector of schools educational theory and brought about recognition that lefthandedness is a natural condition. Meanwhile he learnt Persian, Arabic and Turkish, copying manuscripts by hand in research for his 900-page History of Chess (1913), followed later by his History of Board Games other than Chess (1952). In retirement he became active in parish and district councils, giving his children an example of responsible service.

His eldest son, Donald, was a regular army officer and fell in the hopeless defence of Hong Kong in 1941. Betty was to bear much responsibility for bringing up his two children. Harold's second son, Kenneth, trained in art and thereafter spent most of his life in Nigeria, fostering traditional arts by teaching, fighting the export or smuggling of treasures and, as Surveyor of Antiques, building up a national museum.

Betty, Harold's third child. was truly a chip off the same block. Educated in three schools because of her father's Oxford, graduating in History in 1931 and gaining a BLitt in 1933; her thesis was published as The Constitutional History of the Cinque Ports in 1935.

In 1933 she won a studentship at the British School of Arpart in excavation in Samaria. Next she spent two years (1935-37) on the staff of a women's hall of residence in Manchester University before returning to Somerville as a research fellow. But her gifts for administration and care of students had been



Murray: childlikeness

bridge, where her aunt Hilda (Sir James's fifth child) had Web of Words (1977), became a literature and, since 1924, Vicebest-seller among biographies. Mistress, retiring in 1936. At Girton, Betty served for 10 years, mainly in administrative functions, but she also found time he published valuable papers on for research, publishing another work on Cinque Ports history, the Kent Record Society Regis-

ter of Daniel Rough, in 1945. In 1948 came an offer which seemed made for her: to be Principal of Bishop Otter College, Chichester. Her father had retired in West Sussex, and here Betty Murray (who never married) made her home and began to deepen her love for that county. Her home was in the village where that great fighter against the Corn Laws, Richard Cobden, was born and worshipped in the parish church.

Chichester was the other pole of her life. Bishop Otter was a small Anglican teachertraining college with 200 women students, as enclosed as an oldfashioned boarding school. During the years of Betty Murray's principalship, 1948-70, it expanded and developed in every possible way, both in buildings and in co-educational range, till it had 700 students and a maior place in tertiary education in the region. She inspired an ever-growing staff with the need to show and encourage imagimoves as regional inspector, she nation, fostering this by (among went to Somerville College, other means) an amazingly successful policy of acquiring works by 20th-century British artists of the first rank.

Similarly, as a local councillor, she brought about the restoration of Pallant House in the town and its opening as an chaeology in Jerusalem and took art gallery, while her achievements for archaeology were manifold, both in Chichester itself and by her presidency of the Sussex Archaeological Society; she helped to organise excavations at Bignor and, most imand was active in the Society of

Sussex Downsmen. Conservation of all things of beauty, natural or works of human hands, was supremely important to her, likewise maintaining ancient common-law rights of way for ramblers which are so much threatened today. Politically an Independent, she was a great fighter for these causes on all councils and committees on which she served.

Her old farmhouse nestled right under the Downs and well into old age she could



low her up. A walk with her was an education in both knowledge and love of nature; she knew every path and every tree, flower and animal. She founded the Downland Murray Trust to maintain a conservation area which is a fitting memorial to her.

For many, however, Betty Murray's best-known monument will be Caught in the Web of Words, on which she began work after her retirement. A worthy biography of Sir James Murray was long overdue. Harold had offered a full-scale life to the Oxford University portantly of all, Fishbourne Press, but it was rejected on Palace. She also served on the grounds of possible embarent for persons still living: a revision was turned down as being too boring.

Betty had all the old material and more, but the challenge remained: after the romance of the shepherd boy from the Borders, largely self-educated bevond his elementary schooling, how could all those years in the lexicographer's scriptorium ever make pages to grip a reader? That Betty Murray succeeded, and how brilliantly, is a matter of publishing history.

Yet she too suffered initial

of Robert Gittings (in the next village) that she turned to Yale University Press. This brought her not only speedy acceptance but also a lasting friendship (which soon came to include other Murray cousins) with Chester Kerr, president of the press, and his wife. As for Oxford, it was a sweet day for Betty Murray when they came creeping to acquire the paper-

her nature. Despite a wide circle of friends, her easy openness to all sorts and conditions of people and her devotion to her parish church, of which she was a warden, who heart of hearts was very private. Of what she was willing to show and share with others, perhaps what brought one in deepest was her childlikeness. It showed in her way with children and with all the birds and animals (especially hedgehogs) which she loved to feed; but, above all, it had a visible sancturn which she would show to those who could appreciate it: her dolls' house.

However, malice was not in

back rights.

This for her was no pitiful symbol of lost happiness like frustration from Oxford, and it Citizen Kane's "Rosebud", but

make a companion pant to fol- was on the experienced advice the living home and nourisher of her imagination; its exquisitely furnished rooms were peopled by old friends with histories; she wrote tiny books for the shelves of its library. What constant alchemy transmuted this inner life of her imagination into a personality of such mature achievement is a matter to be pondered with wonder, awe and joy to have known her.

Robert Murray S

Katherine Maud Elisabeth Murray, educationist, historian, archaeologist and conservationist born Cambridge 3 December 1909; Tutor and Librarian, Ashburne Hall, Mansearch Fellow, Somerville College, Oxford 1937-38; Assistant Tutor and Registrar, Girton College, Cambridge 1938-44, Fellow 1940-48. Domestic Bursar 1942-44, Director of Studies in Architecture 1943-48, Junior Bursar 1944-48; FSA 1946; Princibal, Bishop Otter College of Education, Chichester 1948-70: Chairman of Council, Sussex Archaeological Society 1964-77, President 1977-80; member, Chichester District Council 1973-87, Chairman, Planning Committee 1979-82; died West Lavington, Sussex 6

Martindale Sidwell

MARTINDALE SIDWELL's across the Channel. In 1944 he influence on post-war British choral music can be measured in the fiercely loyal devotion and deep affection felt by the hundreds who sang under his direction over more than 50 years. When in 1996 a service was arranged at St Clement Danes in London to celebrate his 80th birthday, the building burst at the seams with colleagues and choristers eager to express their gratitude for the training received at the hands of one of nusic's perfectionists.

Sidwell's contribution as or-

anist and music director both at St Clement Danes (1957-92) and Hampstead Parish Church (1946-92) amounted to an astonishing combined total of over 80 years' service. Add to this his work in founding and conducting the London Bach Orchestra (1967-81), the Hampstead Choral Society (1946-81) and the Martindale Sidwell Singers (1956-92), recording and broadcasting commitments, teaching the organ at Trinity College of Music and the Royal Academy of Music (1963-84). not to mention fulfilling duties as a Professor at the Royal School of Church Music (1958-66), and it becomes clear why Martin" became a legend.

He was born in Warwickshire in 1916 and christened John William Martindale, a combination of his father's Christian names and his mother's maiden name. John William senior was an enthusiastic amateur musician, and at the age of seven the young Martindale won a place as a chorister (and pupil in the choir school) at Wells Cathedral. By the time his voice broke he was already a talented organist, having studied at the cathedral with Conrad Eden. At just 16, in 1932, he was appointed cathedral sub-organist.

As with so many of his generation, the Second World War interrupted plans and ambitions. He served with the Royal Engineers, working on south coast defences but was also involved in many risky expeditions

married the pianist and harpischordist Barbara Hill, a noted performer herself, later to become Professor of Piano at the Royal College of Music.

Somehow Sidwell managed to maintain a strong wartime connection to music-making in the Midlands, becoming respectively director of music at Warwick School, organist of Holy Trinity Church, Learnington Spa and conductor of the Learnington Spa Choral Society.

These proved the springboard for his achievements at Hampstead Parish Church after the war, when he came to London for organ studies under the highly regarded C.H. Trevor at the Royal Academy of Music. He was appointed to Hampstead in 1946, at a time when its strong musical tradition had been decimated as a by-product of the hostilities.

In a remarkably short period he established the choir of men and boys as one of the finest in the country, not excluding cathedrals. In the 1950s it made broadcasts and recordings (with conductors of the stature of Otto Klemperer) and appeared at the Royal Festival Hall and the Wigmore Hall, as well as touring in Europe. Some of these trips were made in connection with the Occumenical Fellowship of Boys' Choirs in Worship. on whose committee Sidwell sat for a time. The fellowship fostered contacts between boys' choirs all over Europe.

St Clement Danes at the Aldwych reopened in 1958 after the repair of its massive wartime damage, and was designated the church of the RAF. Again, Sidwell was called in to restore a wounded musical tradition. Thus began a Sunday routine which saw him direct the music for matins alternately at Hampstead and St Clement Danes, then take in early evensong at St Clement Danes, before the rush to Hampstead for evensong preceded by choir practice.

At St Clement Danes, Sidwell received approval for the



Sidwell: iron discipline in the quest for perfection

establishment of a nucleus of eight professional singers - expanded as needed - to cope with a round of duties which included all manner of special RAF occasions, from memorial services and statue unveilings to weddings with an aviation connection. Among his singers were the countertenors James Bowman and Paul Esswood. The BBC regularly broadcast mid-week choral evensongs. Sidwell's trademark, which

has left an indelible impression on all who sang for him, was an iron discipline in the quest for perfection, however elusive that might be. He knew what he wanted, and woe betide the BBC producer who dared to query a point or two shortly before the green light went on. But Sidwell also had a sense of humour which ran to an inexhaustible supply of limericks, not all of which could be repeated in church.

To fill any time left in midweek, Sidwell founded variously the Hampstead Choral Society (1946), which provided a platform for a host of British oratorio soloists, the smallerscale Martindale Sidwell Choir (1956) and the London Bach Orchestra (1967), which staged regular concerts under his direction at the Royal Festival Hall and Queen Elizabeth Hall. While he had a love of English and French music, Bach was perhaps closest to his heart. Sidwell's readings of his music were lighter and faster than audiences were used to in the 1950s, but they anticipated the style of early music performance that has since become familiar.

St Clement Danes acquired its own music society in the 1960s under Sidwell's leadership, its concerts being guaranteed sell-outs. A Fellow of the Royal College of Organists, Sidwell continued to give recitals, and was appointed Professor of Organ at his Alma Mater, the Royal Academy, in 1963.

While RAF chaplains at St Clement Danes came and went, it seemed Martindale Sidwell would go on forever. He was still juggling duties at his two churches until 1992. When he retired, at the age of 76, he found pleasure in taking a seat in both sets lowed in the case of St Clement Danes with, as ever, lunch and a drink or two with his friends in the pub across the road.

Andrew Green

John William Martindale Sidwell, organist, choirmaster and conductor: born Little Packington, Warwickshire 23 February 1916; Organist and Choirmoster, Hampstead Parish Church 1945-92; Organist and Director of Music, St Gement Danes 1957-92; married 1944 Barbara Hill (two sons); died London 20

Roger Lazar

project himself into the upper reaches of BBC News, writes Charles Wheeler |further to the obituary by Leonard Miall. 17 February]. The contributors to From Our Own Correspondent a request for a piece from

effacing a character ever to remember him as one of the most successful programme editors of his generation - on a par with men like Laurence Gilliam and Andrew Boyle.

None of us ever said no to

ROGER LAZAR was too self- over the 13 years he ran it will Lazar. Partly that was because reached. FOOC, as we called it, jacket. "The bastards won't al- in the schedules in which foreign we liked him so much; no team

was our most demanding outof foreign correspondents can have worked for a more considerate editor. But it was also because he stretched us, bringing our reporting up to standards some of us had never

let and it raised our self-respect. The late René Cutforth, who resigned from BBC News after covering the war in Korea, used to complain that he'd walked into an editorial strait- Editor, News, and found a place its architect, Roger Lazar.

low you to say it's raining unless you quote an official source," he once warned me. And so it was until the middle 1950s. when Hugh Carleton Greene sacked Tahu Hole, the fearsome

correspondents could breathe, think aloud and dare to interpret the news. Forty-three years later From Our Own Correspondent is still running, a small but evidently durable monument to

BIRTHS, **MARRIAGES** & DEATHS

DEATHS

MUKHERJEE: With deep sorrow, we announce the sudden death in Bahrain of Dr Subha Mukherjee PhD ACA. The funeral will be held on 28 February 1998. For further details, please contact Frank Davey & Co (Funeral Directors), 31 High Street, Hurstpierpoint, West Sassex BN6 9TT. Telephone 01273 832179. May his soul rest in peace.

TAIT Sir James, horn 13 June 1912.

May his soul rest in peace.

TAIT: Sir James, born 13 June 1912.
Died peacefully at home on 18 February 1998. Funeral to take place at the United Reformed Church, Quadrant Road, Richmond, Surrey, at 1pm, Saturday 28 February 1998, followed by committal at Mortlake Crematorium, Townmead Road, Mortlake, at 2.30pm. Donations to Teddington Memorial Hospital. (c) Hollmes & Daughters, 161 High Street, Teddington TW11 SHH, telephone 0.181-977 9532.

WOOLLEY: Phillip Hanbury, Eng.

woolify: Phillip Hambury. Englishman and European, "Reacher of English", died 19 February, aged 85. Dearest husband of Marianne, Dad of Jennifer and Michael, friend to many. Richard Holland - 01458 840658.

For RIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS, telephone 0171-293 2011.

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS The Queen re-opens St Aiden's Pressary School dus Not, which has been rebuilt following a fire at 1 1996. The Dube of Editaburys, Patron, satrada a Dains of Edinburgh, Patron, attends a inden Federation of Clubs for Youn pars' Hall, London ECC. The Princes y re-opens the Manapolatan Pobre S fore, London WI; and, as Patron, Na not Victim Support Schrenes, After and Victim Support Schrenes, After and af

Changing of the Guard

Birthdays

Mr Tom Courtenay, actor, 61; Lord Mr Iom Cointenay, actor, or, 2nd Crickhowell, former chairman, Na-tional Rivers Authority, 64; Sir Antony Duff, former Deputy Secre-tary, Cabinet Office, 78; Lord Gill, a Senator of the College of Justice in Scotland, 56; Sir Alexander Gordon, architect, 81; Mr George Harrison musician, 55; Mr Edward Kellett-Bowman, MEP, 67; Mr Tony Lloyd MP, Minister of State, Foreign Office, 48; Dr Harvey McGregor QC, former Warden, New College, Oxford, 72: Mr Frederic Mullally, writer, 78; Dr Lewis Moonie MP, 51; Maj-Gen Sir Laurence New, former Lieutenant-Governor of the Isle of Man, 66; Sir Roger Parker, a former Lord Justice of Appeal, 75; Lord Put-mam, film producer, 57; Lt-Col John Stephenson, former Secretary, MCC, 67; Professor Sir Stewart Sutherland, or, Professor Su Stewart Stunerand, Principal and Vice-Chancellor, Ed-inburgh University, 57; Mr Anthony Verity, former Master, Dulwich College, 59; Dr Graham Warren, principal scientist, Imperial Cancer Research Fund, 50; Marshal of the RAF Sir Keith Williamson, forme Chief of the Air Staff, 70.

Anniversaries

Births: Anthony Burgess, novelist, philologist, composer and critic, 1917. Deaths: Sir Christopher Wren, architect, 1723: Tennessee Williams, playwright, 1983. On this day: Queen Elizabeth I was excommuni-cated by Pope Pius V, 1570. Today is Ash Wednesday and the Feast Day of St Caesarius of Nazianzen, St Calinto Caravario, St Ethelbert of Kent, St Gerland. St Louis Versiglia, St Tarasius, St Victorinus of Corinth and his Companions and St Walburga.

Lectures Exerer University: Lord Dearing "The Future of Higher Education".

LAW REPORT: 25 FEBRUARY 1998

Real risk of prejudice must be shown

Regina v Pearson and others; Court of Appeal (Criminal Division) (Lord justice Roch, Mr Justice Potts and Mr Justice Poole) 20 February 1998

WHILST the discretion of a trial judge to continue a trial in the absence of one of the accused through illness should be exercised sparingly, an accused who challenged the exercise of that discretion had to show that there was a real rather than a speculative risk of prejudice to his defence if the trial continued.

The Court of Appeal dismissed the appeals of Colin Pearson, Barry Anthony Corbett, and Melvyn-Lohse against their convictions at Wood Green Crown Court of conspiracy to defraud.

The allegation against the appellants was that they had defrauded Philpot Dairy Products Ltd and the Intervention Board Executive Agency by falsely representing that consignments of butter and milk powder were intended for export to Poland, thereby obtaining a subsidy, whereas the Spain.

After his evidence had been completed, Corbett had been taken ill, and had thereafter been absent from the trial. The appellants appealed against their convictions on the ground that the judge had been wrong to refuse to discharge the jury because of Corbett's absence. Jeremy Carter-Manning QC (Registrar of Criminal Appeals) for Pearson; Peter Heppel QC(Registrar of Criminal Appeals) for Corbett; Brian Higgs QC for Lohse; Stephen Kramer QC (Crown Prosecution Service) for the Crown

near to the court, but he de-

clined the offer and remained

Lord Justice Roch said that the judge had refused applications to discharge the jury. He did not consider it proper to require Corbett to attend the trial, but concluded that he would suffer no prejudice if his representatives were given adequate time to report to him on the evidence still to be given by his co-accused and to take instructions about crossexamination. The Crown ofwas one which was being met fered to accommodate Corbett

his absence".

submitted that a defendant had a right to be present at his trial. He relied on the decision in R v Howson (1982) 74 Cr App R 172 in which had been said that the judge had a discretion to continue a trial in the absence of one of the accused through illness, but that it was "a discretion which we would expect to be sparingly exercised and never if the accused's defence could be prejudiced by

Consideration of that ground of appeal should begin with a reference to Rv Kellard [1995] 2 Cr App R 134, which highlighted the public interest that there should not be mistrials in long fraud cases and that such cases should be heard with reasonable expedition. A point made by counsel for the Crown, which accorded with the experience of members of the court, was that the problem posed by defendants being taken ill during fraud trials

increasingly by the courts. The court would accept the

goods were in fact exported to in Brighton where he lived. statement of principle in Rv How-Counsel for Corbett had son, subject to the qualification that what was being referred to was a real risk rather than a speculative risk of prejudice to the defence of the accused person who had been taken ill, a risk that could not be overcome by taking the appropriate steps. The principle might be better stated as: "This is a discretion which we would expect to be sparingly exercised and never if the accused's defence will be prejudiced by his absence". It could not be said in the

present case that justice had not been seen to be done. The judge had not insisted on Corbett's presence at the trial. If the fact that he had remained at a substantial distance from the court had caused difficuties for those representing him, those were difficulties of his own making.

No prejudice to Corbett's case created by his absence could be detected, and it followed that there had been no prejudice to any other defendant. The judge had exercised his discretion properly.

Kate O'Hanlon, Barrister

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London, SEI 2YE 017L 403 8403, Lunch 12noon -3pm, early evening supper 6pm-7pm Mezzo 100 Wardour Street, London, WIV 3LE

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THE INDEPENDENT

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THE INDEPENDENT ON THE INTERNET: WWW.INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

Political follies under the Dome

IT'S ONLY a dome, Prime Minister, only a shell of a building. At best it's only going to accommodate a leisure event. Does that really justify the preachifying and the chiding and the hyperbole Mr Blair served up yesterday? He compared the Dome to St Paul's, and that is fatuous - not because Richard Rogers is not a fine architect who might conceivably deserve comparison with Christopher Wren - but because the cathedral was built in a Christian age to glorify God, and the transcendental purpose of the Dome is ... what? New Labour offers no secular religion. We are - to our credit - these days an incredulous people. Does the Prime Minister intend us to worship at the shrine of technology or try to recover a modernist sensibility in a post-modern age? Politicians tend to make very poor midwives to new world-views. It just won't do for the Prime Minister and his acolytes to talk in these quasi-fundamentalist terms; this was conceived as a temporary structure to house a one-off exhibition. He will be lucky if it works out as well as the Festival of Britain in 1951. The Greenwich Dome will succeed if it provides a good, Disneyesque day out. To put the authority of the British state in play for things as evanescent as those is sheer folly.

The Dome's fate rests on the myriad details of leisure business planning. This is for professionals. Yet what we had yesterday was a Cabinet minister - Mr Mandelson - behaving as if he were the project's chief executive. The problem is not just that he is his own worst spokesperson. His serpentine answers; his belligerence; his brittle amour propre: as a political performer he is a liability. But why is he out there on the high wire at all? A legacy from the Tories was the notion of arm's length government. You set up an "agency", give its chief executive full powers and as a politician you (in theory) wind it up and walk away. Politicians are notoriously bad as managers; it is in their own best interests to stand well back. Instead, the Dome project has sucked them in. Its management structure is a mish-mash of political and executive responsibilities. Jenni Page, the chief executive of the company, passes the buck. Lord Rogers (one of the "litmus" testers) says a single creative director is desperately needed. Mr Mandelson (sole shareholder) disagrees. And confusion reigns.

Messrs Blair and Mandelson, admittedly having inherited an administrative mess from the Tories, have compounded the problem by appearing to take personal responsibility. They are too intimate with those private-sector sponsors who have been persuaded to cough up (including, ominously, Rupert Murdoch's Sky - we already know the quid pro quo). As a result the necessarily limited political capital of this government has been strewn profligately over the muddy site at Greenwich. Instead of keeping its powder dry for the important things, New Labour's political fate is being inextricably bound up with events over which mere politicians can have no control - matters of imagination, taste, Jubilee Line signalling.

Yet it is us that Mr Blair reproves. Sounding like a cross between a Baptist minister high in his pulpit and Lady Thatcher in her most grating "Rejoice!" mode, he commands us to respect daring and excellence. It is difficult not to react defensively to his stern criticism of carpers and naysayers. There is a national trait which the media carries to extremes, sniffing at greatness. And the Dome is a fantastic construction. The Independent sits, literally, on top of the site and daily we see the spider's web of cables being spun between the rocket-like girders. When the skin is added next month it will become a circus tent of giant proportions. Yesterday's package of contents was alternately bizarre, mind-expanding and banal. So much will depend on the finish, the quality of materials but also the training provided to staff - whose recruitment is being left desperately late.

Of course we have to wish the whole thing well. But we wish this govnment well too in its central purposes. We therefore also wish that Tony Blair had not yesterday identified himself and New Labour quite as intimately, quite as passionately with a project which so easily could fall into the pits of mediocrity and mismanagement and consequently provoke deep

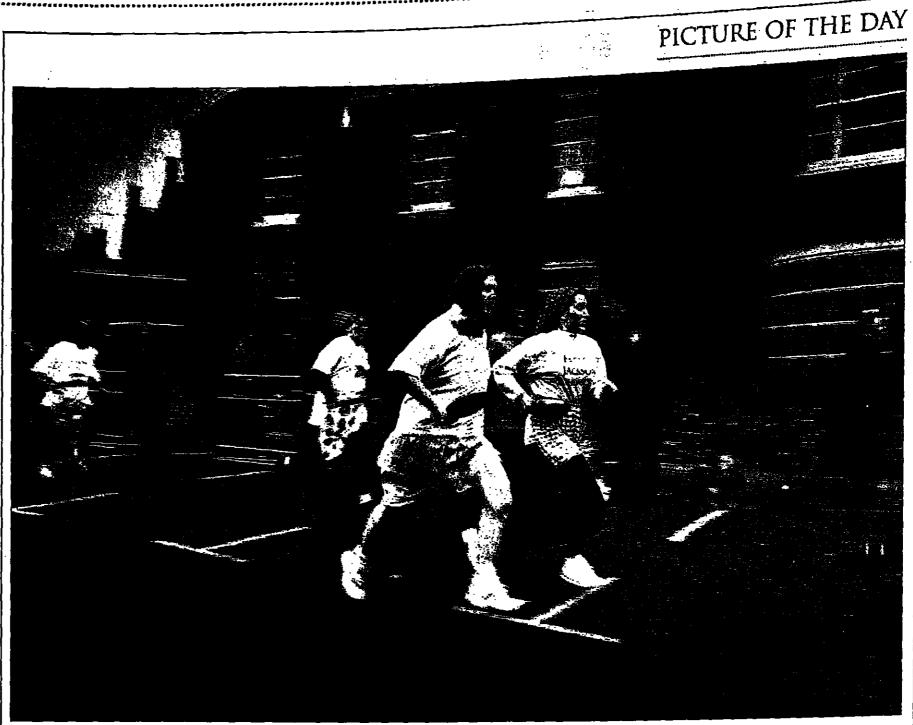
Unfair veto on Sir Sean



FROM HIS unbreakable Scottish soldier in The Hill to his definitive James Bond. Sean Connery is a great British film star. He is also a tax exile. Content to leave the green hills of Scotland far behind him for most of the year he has none the less been lending his sex appeal to romantic Scottish Nationalism - the misty-glens-and-bracs variety rather than a form of politics meaningful in the lives of the people of Edinburgh to whom he once delivered milk. Connery is also credited with approving the use by men of physical force in controlling their womenfolk. Sometimes she needs a good slap, is how he is supposed to have put it.

Where in all that is Connery's claim on a knighthood and where the vcto? If Donald Dewar gave him the black spot because he is a Nat, that shows the Scottish Secretary lacks political imagination. To have a memher of a republican party on his knees accepting a knighthood from Elizabeth II (when all good Scots know she is only Elizabeth I) would have been a Unionist propaganda coup.

But if Connery's reported views about hitting women were the sticking point, this is hard. The star is already a freeman of the City of Edinburgh, which city has run several campaigns against domestic violence, and no one has yet suggested he be stripped of that honour. Besides, how many existing knights (or ladies) would pass parallel tests of political correctness? Knighthoods are a bauble which at best mark out people of real distinction. Sean Connery is one and has been unfairly treated.



Flat out: The annual Shrove Tuesday pancake race in Olney, Buckinghamshire, yesterday. It is said to be the oldest pancake race in the country, dating back 500 years Photograph: Tom Pilston A 12ms wide print of this photograph can be ordered by telephoning 0171-293-2534, price 0.5

Working mothers

THE Equal Opportunities Commission is delighted that The Independent has chosen to draw attention to the difficulties many parents have in trying to combine work with bringing up a family.

As The Independent so rightly points out, paying for childcare is a major item in the household budgets of all working parents and cost of childcare can act as a barrier to women returning to work. We are also delighted that The Independent is giving recognition to the contribution that women make to centives that Mr Prescott wants to

The EOC believes that expenment in Britain's future. The value grants to build well and offset the exof caring must be acknowledged if parents in general and women in particular are not to sacrifice such as Civic Trust's proposals for a Public Interest Disclosure Bill emtheir current and future incomes as the price of taking responsibil-

ity for their families. Tax subsidies are one way of providing help and we shall be following The Independent's campaign with interest.

KAMLESH BAHL Chairwoman

Equal Opportunities Commission Manchester

MANY middle-class women go out to work so that they can help to pay for their children's private education - why should the taxpayer subsidise the cost of the child-minders that they need as a

result? TOM HUDSON Buckingham

THROUGH the generous tax relief the system allows married couples, particularly where one of them does not work, the state is already subsidising Sally Dealler's childcare arrangements (Letters, 24 February). My salary supports myself and my two young children, and I don't see why, through the tax breaks already in place, it should also be helping to support other people's non-working wives.

MIS M A MASKELL Maidenhead. Berkshire

LETTERS

Post letters to Letters to the Editor and include a daytime telephone number Fax 0171 293 2056; e-mail: letters@independent.co.uk E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

The result was predictable: row

upon row of detached "executive

do not "tilt to the right".

ployees who alert the authorities to

However, it is not clear that

The scale of the problem is con-

siderable. Each year about 300 peo-

25.000 suffer scrious injury, and

Health and Safety Executive reports

have suggested that management

failures are responsible for about 70

per cent of accidents. My own na-

tional research suggests that about

20 per cent of workplace fatalities

arc, prima facie, cases of corporate

new progressive law, an employee

would have to be particularly coura-

geous and self-sacrificing to report

dangerous practices and risk ex-

changing employment for a com-

manslaughter.

pensation cheque,

Dr GARY SLAPPER

The Open University

Walton Hall

under the legislation. The law would

STEVE MELIA

job?", 23 February).

medium-sized companies.

South Brent,

Oh, and by the way, my politics

Brownfield building

JOHN PRESCOTT'S call for an urban renaissance and greater use of brownfield sites is very encouraging ("Prescott says recycle", 24 February). But your suggestion that the Chancellor will veto a package of input forward is alarming.

The new policy will bite only if it Devon diture on childcare is an invest- is backed by better incentives and tra costs of brownfield sites. The funding could come from measures IT IS encouraging that through the greenfield levy, which Mr Prescott is apparently considering.

Yet under present plans that Mr Prescott inherited from the Conservatives, his department's core spending programme for regeneration is actually planned to fall. This is now a nonsense. The Chancellor needs to show in the Budget that the whole Government is backing Mr Prescott's vision with a package of green taxes and other measures. Mr Prescott has responded to the national call for an urban focus; we must now also will the means to deliver to a high stan-

dard. MICHAEL GWILLIAM Director Civic Trust

Liverpool

THE ARGUMENT about development land is not about "affordable

new homes" (leader, 20 February). The last government instructed our county council (Devon) to plan for 99,000 new dwellings; 70 per cent of these are required to satisfy inward migration; two new settlements will be needed to achieve this target. An inspector recently supported this stance and at the same time rejected any target for affordable social housing for local

To see what happens when developers are let loose on green field Buckinghamshire

sites. I visited one of the new gen-Robbed in Kenya eration of "self-contained new settlements" - Great Notley in Essex.

I WAS horrified to read of the killing of Roy Chivers whilst he was on holiday in Kenya (report, 17 February). My partner and myself have pain that only cannabis can relieve. just returned from a holiday in Kenya where we, too, were victims of a very frightening robbery. Three forcing sick people either to suffer unmen wielding machetes robbed us of necessarily or to become criminals? money and valuables. Our tour operator's representative did not give ational drug but alcohol. a warning to the other tourists. Are RESTEBBING the tour operators frightened to cause unnecessary concern over an-

dangerous or criminal practice at their work will be afforded some prodecline that the country has taken in tection ("Thinking of shopping the two years. Local people I spoke to boss but don't want to lose your gave graphic accounts of the crime tourist industry. How long will it be those dismissed could be reinstated before Kenya, like Egypt, is understood to be an unsafe and chancy holbe unlikely to enforce what would be

a very strained employer-employee **MCHANDLER** relationship, especially in small or

Irvine's wallpaper ple are killed at work, and over

If the architecture is distinguished and the expenditure is necessary to preserve it then Lord Irvine can do as the rest of us do - live in his own home and commute to work. The official residence might then be open Nevertheless, even under the to the public at all times and we could all enjoy the decorations we have

> penditure is necessary or that, as Lord Irvine claims, he was distanced from the decision to go ahead. He could have said "No" and suggested that the money he used to fund the odd hospital hed rather than paper the parlour.

other "isolated incident"?

Having spent some time in Kenya epidemic that is slowly croding their iday destination?

Port Talbot, West Glamorgan

JOHN MITCHELL (letter, 24 February) asks that we stop carping about the money spent refurbishing the Lord Chancellor's apartment.

paid for.

Many of us doubt that the ex-NORMAN MITCHELL London SW6

Cannabis as medicine

AS A cancer sufferer who is undergoing chemotherapy. I should like & someone to explain to me the logic of the fact that although it is illegal for doctors to prescribe cannabis to relieve my symptoms it is legal to use heroin as a medical drug.

The evidence that cannabis is non-habit-forming and less damaging than heroin, tobacco or alcohol is now overwhelming. Many people suffer and sufferers from ME can get relief by its use. What is the justification for

I have never used any recre-

London E12

Housing for volcano isle

in 1995, I was shocked at the severe THE LAST thing Montserrations need is the nannyism of a UK prefabricated housing estate despoiling their beautiful island, which, despite the present setback, yet has a special future in the regional tourist economy ("Extra aid for Montserrat", 19 February).

Given the tools, a traditional blockwork house can be completed in three weeks at a fraction of the cost, providing essential local employment. If nannyism destroys the skill of West Indian domestic woodcraft, the indigenous character that visitors come to see may be lost. Good urban management, a new blockmaking machine and adequate cement would be more to the point and could have been supplied this time last year. STEVE OSGOOD

Teddington, Middlesex

Time to celebrate

A MAJOR problem facing the organisers of various "Millennium Experiences" seems to be time - being ready on time, that is.

There is a solution - recognise that the next millennium really starts on 1 January 2001. There now-you have a whole year more than you thought. MICHAEL TAYLOR Stenton, Lothian

think, monsieur, the shy, reserved Englishman is trying to tell you something



31

Chang

FROM TIME to time this column likes to cater for those of its readers for whom English is a second language, and do something to make them aware of the great richness of our native tongue.

The British are internationally renowned for their shyness and reserve. and today I am bringing you fourscore different ways in which the English language can be used to tell someone to go away, ranging from the silkily polite to the blunt. Next time you want to get rid of some importunate Briton, monsieur, one of the following eighty-odd phrases is bound to do the trick I

It's getting late ... Sorry to break up the party ... Busy day tomorrow ... Time to wend your way. I think. Good heavens, is that the time? Doesn't time fly when you're having fun?

My wife and I are going to bed now. All good things come to an end. Time, gents, please. Let's be having you! Have you no homes to go to? Do us a favour! Off you go now Be off with you! Make yourselves scarce! Are you still here? On your skates! Buzz of!! Scram! Bcat it! Avaunt my sight!

Begone!

Stand not upon the order of your going, but go!

Farewell! Awa' wi' ye! Get going! Go away! Just GO! Get lost! Push of?! Vamoose! Skedaddle! Hop it! Take a powder! Solit! You're harred! Get out of it! Go to hell! Go to blazes! Go and take a running leap in the nearest lake.

Go and eat coke. Go and holl your head. Vanish! Get stuffed!

Get knotted! Piss off! Bugger off) Clear off! Clear the area. Fire! Bomb! Earthquake! Police! Vacate the premises, Do not disturb, Trespassers will be Prosecuted. Keep Out. No Entry. Private. No admittance (except on business).

دت

Callers by appointment only.

Sorry, No Callers at House, This correspondence is now closed. Keep moving. Mind the gap. Move along there, please, sir. Keep clear. Keep off the grass. Staff only. Members only. Not beyond this point. So far and no further. Can't you take a hint? It's getting late... Sorry to break up the party...

If you would like a full list of such phrases, just send for our "Guide to British Hospi-

Why liberals owe a grudging debt to the threat of force



DONALD **MACINTYRE**

We liberals are never happy. Having fretted about war we are now uneasy about the peace. Having worried about the allies demonising Saddam, we now worry that he is stronger than ever. Having preferred a diplomatic solution all along. we now worry about whether diplomacy has been successful enough. There is a solution to the liberals' dilemma - to be a bit less grudging about the fact that force has shifted Saddam without a shot being fired. That said, it has not been liberalism's finest hour. Consider first, now that the immediate crisis is over, three

myths that have built up during the Gulf crisis. The first myth is that Britain was merely the lapdog of the US. Britain was never, once the crisis began, going to withhold its backing from the US. But it's becoming clearer that London played a significant role in persuading Washington that Kofi Annan's mission was worth trying. At a meeting convened in London, on 14 February, of the Middle East Regional Directors of the State Department, Quai D'Orsay, and the Foreign Office, Britain brokered a deal that made possible the Security Council's decision to sanction a heavily mandated mission

The strategy was twofold: on the one hand, it maximised the chances of the diplomatic solution that most British ministers had always preferred. But it also had another, harder-edged benefit: if Kofi Annan were to come back empty-handed then it would have been much more difficult for the French and the Russians. having signed up to the Annan mission, to oppose, much less to veto, air strikes on Iraq. Second, the British were the principal authors, again in the face of some initial reluctance from Washington, of last week's UN resolution significantly increasing the oil-for-aid programme. Diplomatically, this no doubt helped to lure the French and the Russians a little closer to the US/UK position. But the larger virtue was that it was a policy which drew a clear and public rect yesterday to warn that a "piece of paper distinction between the regime and the people who suffer cruelly under it.

ment was somehow forsaking its Europeanism by siding with the Americans in threatening Saddam with force. You don't have to accept every dark ministerial hint that France was motivated in its opposition to force against Saddam only by commercial greed to appreciate that Britain was less isolated in Europe than it sometimes looked. Beside France and perhaps Greece, only Luxembourg has directly opposed British backing for the US stance. Luxembourg's egregious foreign minister, Jacques Poos, having excelled himself at the outset of the Balkan war by claiming that this was "the hour of Europe", went on to declare with equal absurdity of the latest Gulf crisis that while it might be desirable to threaten force on occasions, it would be quite another thing to carry the threat out. Belgium, Denmark, Holland,

Germany, Portugal, Spain, and probably Italy, would have all offered either military or logistical help, while Austria and Finland were showing signs of political support. And this may stem from a larger understanding of the price that has to be paid, on occasions, by the Nato allies for continuing US engagement in Europe.

لمكذا من ألاصل

The third myth is that the US and Britain should never have been prepared to use force against Saddam, and that diplomatic means alone could have achieved this week's solution. That flies directly in the face of experience. Whatever practical deficiencies the Baghdad agreement may turn out to have in its application to Unscom inspections of the all-important presidential sites, it is a huge advance on the position Saddam was taking before the threat of force started to loom and when he was denying any access to the sites at all. Nor, rather importantly, is it the view of the UN Secretary General. Watching Annan's and Tariq Aziz's press conference on CNN in a Brussels office on Monday, the Foreign Secretary and his senior officials displayed palpable tension as Annan went through the elaborate courtesies of thanking the Iraqi regime for its reception of his delegation. It was only when Annan said in answer to a question that diplomacy worked best when it was backed by "firmness and force" that Cook allowed himself the ghost of a smile. When Kofi Annan, the first man to dignify the UN office in recent years, says so, it's worth tak-



This doesn't mean that there are no reasons r apprehension. Britain's representative at the UN was right to press yesterday for a clear explanation of Clause 4b of the agreement which rather opaquely refers to "specified detailed procedures" that will govern the inspection of the Iraqi presidential sites where chemical and biological weapons may be, if not made or stored, at least documented. It will be necessary, but possibly extremely difficult, for Britain and the US to secure in New York a clear mandate for acting against Saddam if he breaks the new agreement he signed this week. Blair was corsigned by the Iraqi regime plainly cannot be enough". Saddam's hyper-spin throughout the The second myth is that the British gov- Arab world will persuade many that he has tricked the Great Satan yet again. Above all he is still there.

All these are reasons why Blair was right not to be excessively triumphalist in the Commons yesterday. We liberals should be a little less grudging - not least because the UN suddenly matters again. Some of those who oppose the war do their case a disservice when they also denounce the peace. Those who complain that the objectives of bombing weren't clear shouldn't complain too much if achievements made without bombing have some ragged edges, too. It's a matter for quiet rejoicing that force worked, so far, without having to be used. And pace Jacques Poos, that only happens when those wielding the force are ready to use it. Blair and Clinton were; the outcome is something

How to cope with the cheapest energy ever - make it expensive

The price of oil has fallen and is still falling, with fatal consequences for the environment but, says Hamish McRae, there is a way out of the trap

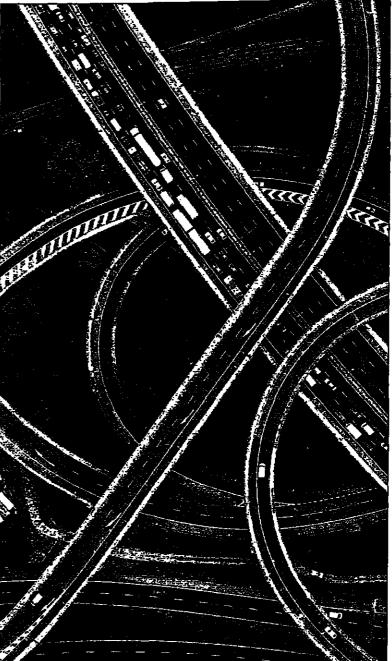
Even silver clouds sometimes have a dark lining. As the markets yesterday signalled, in their own inimitable way, we're in for a period of very low oil prices. They reckon that if the apparent settlement in Iraq leads to the lifting of UN sanctions on that country's exports, even more oil will get pumped on to the already swamped world market - for the oil price is now as low in real terms as it was before it quadrupled in 1973-74. Indeed, it is just about as low in real terms as it has ever been since the world first starting using mineral oil in large quantities more than a century ago.

Expect this situation to continue. The main determinant of energy use in the world is economic growth, and East Asia, which has accounted for two-thirds of all growth since 1990, is currently stalled. Cheap oil means cheap energy. Oil, and gas (which follows the oil price pretty closely) account for roughly two-thirds of the world's energy supplies, and coal makes up most of the rest. Only 10 per cent of the world's energy comes from non-fossil fuels, mostly nuclear and hydro-electric power. In many ways we should welcome a plentiful supply of cheap energy; it is a crucial element in determining living standards everywhere.

But in terms of the effect on the environment, this is very bad news. We cannot rely on the price mechanism to control our energy use. The market, when it is on your side, is a wonderfully powerful ally. Anyone who can remember the two oil shocks will recall how people cut energy use. The immediate effect was for people to drive less and turn down the thermostats, but there was also a longer-term effect, as car manufacturers focused on fuel consumption, and architects on the energy efficiency of buildings. From now on, though, the market will be against savings of this sort.

We can already see how hard it is to fight the market. The well-meaning legislation in the US to increase fuel efficiency has mainly had the effect of producing gutless cars, which in turn has encouraged real Americans to buy light trucks and four-wheel-drive vehicles instead. Of course, these use much more fuel, but fuel is so cheap that no one cares too much.

We should not, however, sneer at US hypocrisy. Our own deputy prime minister has recently publicised the fact that he is exchanging his regular official Jaguar for a new one fuelled by natural gas. But that does not make his Jag significantly kinder to the environment, or any more efficient. Gas is cheaper only because the tax is lower, and the global resources of gas are almost as tight as those for oil: around 52 years' supply



Cheap fuel means more cars ... but friendly taxes can save the day NTI

compared with about 45 years'. (In fact, since up to one-third of the energy a car uses in its lifetime is used to manufacture it, the true environmentalist would try to use an old car, not a new one.)

The solution comes in two parts. The first is to apply the market mechanism through taxation. Countries need to tax energy a lot more. Governments are already desperate for revenue, for they can So what will happen? We have the see that their traditional sources are

If environmental taxes were used not to spend more but specifically targeted to reduce taxes elsewhere, they might even become the one form of taxation that was positively popular

prospect of another generation of cheap energy, with all the inevitable environmental problems that will result. The only things that might change that - such as a real war in the Middle East - are too horrible to contemplate. Is there no way out?

Mercifully, there is a way forward. ployers, the more they export the jobs.

going to be relentlessly cut away. Companies are already able to shift their operations around the world to minimise their tax payments and extract the maximum in incentives to invest. Increasingly, rich individuals are doing the same. The more the tax burden is shifted to emtaxes such as VAT, the more the black economy grows; in Italy it is now about a quarter of the economy.

Energy taxation, by contrast, is remarkably difficult to evade. Fuel for vehicles is tightly controlled. So, too, is electricity and gas. There may be powerful political reasons for not wanting to increase energy taxation, but attitudes there can be changed - there used, after all, to be a strong political lobby against taxing tobacco more heavily provided people feel that the extra revenues will not disappear into the usual black hole and be wasted. If environmental taxes were not used to spend more, but specifically targeted to reduce taxation elsewhere, then they might even become the one form of additional taxation that was positively popular.

However, while there are some things that can be done to conserve energy within national boundaries, others -such as taxation of aviation fuel - need international co-operation. That leads to the second part of the solution: we need to create a culture of conservation.

One of the difficulties politicians face is taking into account the interests of future generations, both people too young to vote now and (still more difficult) the unborn. These voices are unheard at election time. Yet individually we do care about posterity. We plant gardens and trees that won't reach full maturity in our lifetimes; we seek to leave something for our children; we support charities that try to protect endangered species.

Somehow politicians need to connect the interests of future generations to those of their present electorates. One way of making this connection real is to focus on the needs of the environment. and in particular the duties of each generation to treat it in a responsible way. We can all envisage a world 25 or 30 years hence when even more acres of beautiful countryside are covered with concrete, when our air is even dirtier than it is now, and when there have been long-term changes to our weather as a result of a build-up of greenhouse gases. Governments can use this aspect of public concern about the future to draw people's attention to something they find much harder to accept: that governments now should be running budget surpluses, paying off debt as fast as they can, and encouraging people to save for their own pensions so that the next generation of people of working age will not have to pay even more to support the growing army of the retired.

So the prospect of a generation of cheap energy is in one sense a threat. Miss the chance to be wise about energy use now, and we end up with a nastier environment a generation hence. But because everyone can see that, it is also an opportunity. It is an opportunity for those with influence - not just politicians but opinion-formers in general - to show that we can connect the interests of one generation with those of the next.

We do that by accepting that the benefit of cheaper oil should be passed to society as a whole, in the form of high-

Who would study theology? I did, and I'll tell you why ...



CLARE GARNER

Theologians want to update their subject, but it already works as a career path

It was always the dinner party question I dreaded, because I knew what was coming next. Whenever I told someone I was reading theology, the predictable reply was: "Ah, so you want to be a priest?"

Being reasonably goodnatured, I tried to laugh it off, perhaps adding: "No. actually. A nun." But deep down all the feelings of paranoia about the future, career, and Life, broke the surface of student illusion and I would ask myself why on earth I was devoting three years to studying such a dusty, crusty subject, which apparently only qualified me to serve in a ministry which did not at the time accept women. (The unvarnished truth is that it seemed a good way to get an

offer of a place from a good university.)

Thirty-six academics, including the Regius Professor of Divinity at Oxford University, where theology was the first course to be devised - and where I ended up studying it have signed up to a campaign to make UK theologians more open to contemporary culture. more international in their outlook and more responsive to other religions. As one of them says, "Theology too often seems an academic sideline, outdated and dusty, and of little relevance to modern life." Quite.

But then, all of a sudden, I find myself coming over all nostalgic. I remember, with surprising fondness, my deeply eccentric tutor, a walk- I know who read theology are

ing authority on Mesopotamian Creation Myths, who probably dreams in Hebrew. Perhaps all that poring over sacred texts and ancient tomes in the dimming light of the Bodlean was not such a bad idea, after all.

And careerwise, at least, theology stood us in good stead. Not one of my theologian friends had to resort to donning a dog collar in order to earn a living. Between us, there is a television researcher, a theatrical agent, a Walt Disney producer, an artist, a court reporter, a primary school teacher, a financial journalist, a literary agent, a nightclub singer, and a spy. As one contemporary said: "All the people

insane."

Susan, now a court reporter. says theology helps with her job. "You know, the Greek and the crappy Old Testament references. Judges and barristers come up with phrases like: "Tell it not in Gath, publish it not in the streets of Askelon" and I know what they're on about."

Lucy, now a primary school teacher, says the theologian mantle has its advantages. "People think you're quite scholarly. It's never bad to fool people a little bit like that," she says, adding that she enjoyed telling people she wanted to be a nun. But perhaps Katherine gives the most honest answer of all. "What did

either in the film industry or I get out of reading theology? A degree from Oxford."

Another consequence of reading theology is that it leaves you with a healthy scepticism towards religion. The majority of us started out as confirmed Christians and ended up with our eyes wide open about the true origins of the Gospels.

"Where does theology get you in the end?" asks the Oxford prospectus. "One hopes that those who read theology will arrive at a better understanding of Christianity, whatever their reaction to it, and equally important, at a better understanding of themselves and their world, in whatever direction this leads them." For a few, that is the Church; for the rest of us, the World.

INDEPËNDENT INDEPENDENT



Education

Lifelong Learning The Role for Universities

Thursday 5 March 1998 • Central London

The Government is due to publish a series of White Papers on Lifelong Learning in early 1998, from the DIEE, Scottish and Welsh Offices. This one day CVCP conference will explore the role for universities in developing and implementing the Government's proposals. Universities already play a significant role in lifelong learning, providing courses at all levels - HND, undergraduate, PhD and CPD. How will the developments announced in the White Papers affect this role! In particular what changes will be needed in universities' management, access, curriculum and funding? How can higher education generally develop its interface and partnership with further education to deliver the flexible learning opportunities that lifelong

The conference is for senior managers in higher and further education academics, careers advisers and training and personnel officers in bu

Baroness Blackstone, Minister for Education and Employment

Diana Warwick, Ohlef Executive, Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principal Professor Bob Fryer, Principal, Northern College (Lifelong Learning Advisory Group) Dr. Geraldine Kenney-Wallace, MD and VC, British Aerospace Virtual University

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Sir Elton John has a clear picture of his own style. Flashy, over the top, flamboyant: call it what you will. Sir Elton always projects a glamour all his own. You may not wish to emulate it, but you had better respect it. Photographer David LaChapelle found this out in Los Angeles recent-



ly. On a photo for shoot Citibank, the sponsors of his latest world tour, Sir Elton was asked by the snapper to push a shopping trolley containing

nothing but a huge Citibank credit card. "I'll look like a big fat homeless person pushing that thing!" protested the perfectly proportioned, amazingly svelte, multi-home-owner. He immediately walked off the set and retired to his stretch limousine. When the pro-

ducer tried to coax him back through a cracked window, according to the New York Post, Sir Elton told him, "You can take your \$5m and stick it up your c**t!" Oh dearie.

Isn't this taking Minimalism a bit too far? The Met Bar, London's most fashionable drinking den until the Pharmacy opened last month, has removed all the loo seats in the Gents. When I asked the staff for a line of explanation, all I received was a knowing smirk. Can any readers help enlighten Pandora?

In late November, The Speciator published an article about Harry Evans, the former head of Random House in New York City and Tina Brown's husband. The article by Toby Young raised the question of Evans' sudden departure from the Newhouse empire to become editorial director of the NY Daily News. Was he pushed or did he paper's report that Young is hard at



jump? Young believed the former. Almost two months later, Evans sent The Speciator a letter - longer than Toby Young's original article - in which he demanded a "correction" and a printed apology. Frank Johnson, The Spectator's editor, told Pandora, "I think we are playing a collateral part in Evans's total campaign against Toby Young." Apparently Evans has reacted badly to a New York news-

work on a play about the media scene in the Big Apple, particularly the feud between the New Yorker's Tina Brown and Vanity Fair's Graydon Carter, "And he sent another legal letter to Young," Johnson reports, "which warned that he must not ridicule him 'in any jurisdiction' ". Presumably that includes Off-Broadway theatres as well. Toby Young is outraged by this infringement of his First Amendment rights. Pandora's worry is that fighting for his civil liberties may prevent Toby from finishing his marvellous play.

Anxiety about Iraqi terrorism on these shores is affecting politicians as far away as Cardiff. The bomb squad was recently called out by a local councillor when he received a suspicious package in the mail. Just before they were about to conduct a controlled explosion, one of the squad detected a peculiar sloshing noise. In fact the

cockles, sent by a South Wales firm, Leslie Parsons Cockles, who are lobbying against change in legislation protecting their local shellfish industry. Remember Primary Colors, the scathing political satire about the first Clinton campaign? Now it has

package was a heaping load of fresh

been turned into a heartwarming comedy in which John Travolta plays a cuddly Clinton-like President. How did fictional acid rain turn into tepid drizzle? Clinton met with Travolta before shooting commenced and asked the star about his well-known Scientologist convictions. "Sounds great." Clinton said and volunteered to take up the Scientologists' defence in their current epic legal battle with the German government. I suppose we're lucky that the IRA is not bankrolling a White House satire.

Pandora

WEDNESDAY 25 FEBRUARY 1998

THE INDEPENDENT

City voices fury at collapse of Glaxo merger

THE INDEPENDENT

WEDNESDAY OF SEBBREARY

and Michael Harrison

line Beecham felt the full force of the City's anger yesterday as the collapse of their merger talks wiped more than £13bn off their combined value and details emerged of the personality and culture clashes that brought the deal crashing down.

The collapse of the deal, which would have created the world's biggest drugs group and the third biggest global company, saw Glazo Wellcome's shares slump by almost fell more than 10 per cent to operating officer or the divi-

724p.
The failure of the two companies to complete the merger after clashing over the question of who would run the company stunned the City but also drew widespread criticism from institutional shareholders and

Large investors warned that both companies now had a major task on their hands to rebuild shareholder confidence, particularly SmithKline, which had already called off a merger with American Home Products, the US drugs group, last month to broker a deal with

"It is very unfortunate that in the middle of a deal you have tioned why there should be a to change tack. It suggests that the two sides had not fully understood and communicated ceutical sales were only 55 per with each other before rushing cent of Glaxo's. There also apheadlong into a deal which is pears to have been a growing renot the best course of action," said one large shareholder in the that the cultures of the two haps the group's strategy."

Another fund manager said: "This damages the credibility of tralised organisation with auboth groups. SmithKline have thority and responsibility already jilted the bride to run off with the best man. Now they are cannot even get it together is driven very much from the with the best man. We want to know more about the real reasons for the collapse in the talks."

The collapse of the deal became inevitable after the two sides clashed at a meeting in New York last Friday over the respective roles of its five-man executive board and the apportionment of senior management jobs between Glaxo

and SmithKline personnel. Under the deal Sir Richard Sykes, the Glaxo chairman would have become executive I would have expected more chairman of the merged group from both groups," said one.

of SmithKline, its new chief ex- tical analyst at Greig Middleecutive. The other executive Glazo Wellcome and SmithK- members would have been Glaxo's chief executive, Bob Ingram, and its finance director John Coombe and SmithKline's chief operating officer, Jean

Pierre Garnier.

Mr Leschly would also have been chairman of a larger executive committee. But it emerged that its powers would have been limited with Sir Richard wanting to remain in charge of all major strategic decisions. Likewise, the two sides were unable to 13 per cent to 1657p, while agree on whether Mr Garnier SmithKline Beecham's stock or Mr Ingram would be chief

400 FMAMJJASONOJF

sion of roles in the next tier

50:50 split of management jobs

when SmithKline's pharma-

alisation on the part of Glaxo

groups were incompatible.

Glaxo operates as a decen-

devolved to regional and divi-

sional heads while SmithKline

Nevertheless, institutional

shareholders were aghast that

these differences had not been

ironed out before the two sides

disclosed their merger talks

three weeks ago, stating that re-

spective valuations and the

division of top jobs had already

companies of this stature with ex-

perienced management teams

it is about jobs for the boys then

been agreed.

Glazo executives also ques-

of management.

SmithKline and Glazo now intend to launch separate SmithKline Beecham charm offensives on the City over the next few days and weeks to calm investor fears and try and salvage their reputations. 29/1/98 SKB

The collapse of the deal robs several senior executives of huge payouts and the City of at least £100m in fees. Mr Leschly alone stood to make a paper profit of more than £17m from UK and US share options.

ton said: "This is a major

disappointment. Both compa-

nies are under pressure to do

something to maintain investor

Analysts also speculated that

Glaxo may have wanted to

force the disposal of Smith-

Kline's healthcare division,

which it considered to be far less

important than its pharmaceu-

tical arm, while there were also

question marks over DPS,

SmithKline's troubled US phar-

ties they discovered when they

started to look at each other

closely," said an institutional

You never know what nas-

macy benefit manager.

However, it will save thousands of jobs among the 21,000 UK workforce of the two companies. Roger Lyons, general secretary of MSF, the white collar science union, said: "This is great news. The company ignored the interests of its employees and anybody else. Now it seems that five executives have fallen out over the division of the spoils and per-

The rationale for the merger was to create a research and annual expenditure of more than £2bn a year. SmithKline has poured money into genomics, a process designed to identify hundreds of compounds that could be used to develop drugs. This technology was supposed to have fitted neatly with Glazo's advanced screening techniques, which analysts believe could have lead to the development of a vast

array of new drugs. One analyst said: "I would "I am very perturbed that rather the two groups walk away than proceed with a turkey. When you add a poor drugs pipeline with another poor could not put a deal together. If pipeline then you get an even bigger poor drugs pipeline." Outlook, page 21

Jan Leschly: Stood to make paper profit of £17m

Wrong chemistry

20 jan: SmithKline Beecham announces it is in merger talks with American Home Products

24 jan: Glaxo chairman Sir Leschly, chief executive of SmithKilne, and asks whether

27 jan: Sylves files to New York and meets Leschly in the of SmithKline's advisers Lazard Frenes, to thrash out a deal

33) jan: SmithKline breaks off negotiations with AHP and announces it is in merger talks with Glasso. Respective va rent of combine

17 Feb: SmithKline reports 7 per cent rise in pre-tax profits for 1997 and says it expects to

cent drop in 1997 profits but progress of the merger talks

20 Feb: Sykes meets Leschly in New York and says Glaxo is not prepared to proceed on the

■ 22 Feb: SmithKline chairman leputy chairman Sir Roger Hum neet in London in attempt to

23 Feb: SmithKline erminates merger talks, citing "insurmountable differences" hilosophy and corporate culture

shares plunge 13 per cent and 10 per cent respectively as recriminations begin and the City vents its anger



Sir Richard Sykes: Last-minute demands torpedoed deal

Drug giants ponder life after a brief encounter

the pipeline for HIV, where its

The collapse of the merger when it felt the full effects of the poses more questions for ending of patent protection on SmithKline than Glazo as the the blockbuster anti-ulcer drug two drug giants map out their Zantac, Glaxo's priority now will future strategies, write Andrew be to deliver on its promise to

it alone successfully. But trying 1999 on the back of double digand failed to join forces with a development powerhouse with competitor twice in the space of a month has severely dented its credibility. For Glaxo the deal was always an opportunistic one and yesterday it was at pains to stress that it did not need to pair up with another pharmacentical partner.

Nevertheless for Sir Richard Sykes, Glaxo's chairman, it may prove a missed opportunity. He has set Glaxo the target of developing three significant medicines a year by the millennium against an industry average of one per year. That would have been a much easier goal with the economies of scale in research and development a SmithKline merger

would have brought. After an indifferent 1997,

Vates and Michael Harrison. maintain earnings this year and SmithKline claims it can go then grow them significantly in

> Management experts were last night quick to point out that

and Ernst & Young abandoned their attempt to create the world's largest accounting and management consulting firm. Recently supermarket groups Asda and Safeway, telecoms companies BT and Cable & Wireless and - according to speculation ~ dearing banks Barclays and NatWest have all sized each other up and then backed away from a deal.

per cent sales increase last year treatment for respiratory dis-

to £1.8bn. Approval is also be- eases, a sector of the market could have been frightened off ing sought in China to use where Glaxo's existing drugs by the group's antics over the past Epivir as a treatment for He- Flixotide and Serevent brought month. "Who would want to natitis B while Glazo will file for in sales of £1.8bn last year.

It has two new treatments in regulatory approval later this

Let's call the whole thing off: why mergers fail

Glaxo Wellcome and Smith-Kline Beecham are not unique in calling off a merger, writes Roger Trapp.

Earlier this month, KPMG

Despite a "culture of the of "good management reasons deal" in the City, Glaxo-Smith-Kline is further evidence that mergers can be easy to plan but difficult to pull off. Research suggests only a small proportion of deals of this type achieve their financial targets. According to the London Business School, only about a half of acquiring companies recoup the premium

above market value that they pay. Andrew Campbell, a director of Ashridge Strategic Management Centre and co-author of the book Synergy, published tomorrow, said talks typically fail in this way either because

ement intransigence". Companies realise the "pile of gold" capable of being mined by the two parties was illusory. Sometimes the firms lacked the skills to make it happen, or

the risk of weakening rather than strengthening both companies was too great. Since both Smithkline and Glaxo have achieved successful mergers in the past, it is unlikely such factors were at play here. This leaves management squabbles or, as Mr Campbell puts it,

"deeply felt differences about

what to do and how to do it".

year for a new flu treatment, ure to forge a deal has raised conexisting drugs, Epivir, Retrovirt . Zanamivir. Other drugs in the cerns about the future of the and Combivir notched up a 16 pipeline include Seratide, a group and Jan Leschly, its chief work with Jan Leschly and Jean Pierre Garnier now. They want nothing less that to run any merged company," said one analyst. A hostile bid remains unlikely, with drugs rivals unwilling to give up costs savings by paying a premium for the group.

Meanwhile SmithKline's fail-

Iritish P

If SmithKline remains independent it will have to prove it can produce major new drugs over the next few years to replace Paxil, the group's answer to Prozac and Augmentin, its best selling anti-biotic. Only then can it restore investor confidence.

Underlying profits rose 17 per cent to £1.65bn in 1997, but several of its most promising treatments failed to get through clinical trials and the group could struggle to produce this sort of growth rate in the future,

Poor results deepen NatWest gloom

By Lea Paterson

The pressure on NatWest's embattled management team moved up another notch yesterday after the banking group published a weak set of annuai results. Group profits fell by 10 per

cent, and the bank admitted to difficulties in several of its noncore businesses, in particular NatWest Markets, the investment banking business, and Courts, the Queen's bankers.

The only cheer for NatWest sharebolders was the prospect of nounced it intend to return cap-more than 700 per cent to £76m.

to detail the timing and the size. Lord Alexander, the bank's

chairman, said: "1997 was a difficult year, and our overall results were poor". Derek Wanless, chief executive, called the roup's figures "disappointing". He added: "Nat West Markets had a dreadful year last year. It pulled down the performance of the whole of the group". Before tax, Nat West Markets

lost £706m in the year to December, a fall of £804m. Profits at Courts, the private banking group, fell by 72 per cent after a share buy-back. The bank an- bad debt provisions rose by

ital to shareholders, but declined Mr Wanless said the provisions related to "a small number of isolated lending problems" in the US, but declined to elaborate further on the precise nature of the difficulties.

The name NatWest Markets is to disappear once the group has completed the sale of its equities business later this year, NatWest Markets' debt business will be rebranded Greenwich NatWest and its corporate advisory business is also to be renamed.

Mr Wanless poured cold water on recent industry rumours the bank could merge with Barclays, one of its main

rivals, after an initial approach from Martin Taylor, Barclays chief executive, last summer. Mr Wanless said the competition authorities would be unlikely to approve such a move and the process of merger would damage both banks' franchises. Mr Wanless said he was more receptive, however, to a link-up with a company in the insurance

or mortgage industry. Analysts reacted unenthusiastically both to the results and to Mr Wanless's moves to quash merger speculation. NatWest shares finished the day at 1104p,

Investment column. page 22.

Safeway to close 44 stores as it delivers fresh profit warning

By Nigel Cope City Correspondent

SAFEWAY, the troubled supermarket group, confirmed the City's worst fears yesterday when it delivered its third profits warning in little more than a year along with plans to close 44 stores in a move that will threaten 2,000 jobs.

The profits alert re-ignited speculation that the group might be the subject of a bid from rival Asda, which called off talks with Safeway last year. Meanwhile the City put Safeway management on notice, giving the board six months to put the com-

pany back on track or risk being ousted. "They've lost control," one analyst said. "They were so desperate to deliver sales growth that they have thrown money at the stores, I don't think the City will give them more than six months."

Colin Smith, Safeway's chief executive, denied any direct pressure from investors but added: "It is quite clear that the chief executive takes direct responsibility for the company's performance and I am doing that." He admitted the company had made mistakes but said its performance was improving.

Safeway has been hit by slow

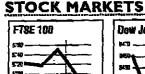
sales growth and rising costs which bave hit margins. Start-up costs involved in setting up in Northern Ireland have been higher than expected and there will be a £30m charge to cover store closures and redundancies.

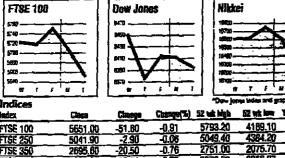
This will cut full-year profits to £375m, excluding the £30m of exceptional charges, compared to the previous year's £430m. Analysts had been forecasting £410-£440. There was also a warning on this year's profits. Safeway said they would be constrained by an extra price competitiveness, product not suitable for conversion. availability and marketing.

"It's an absolute disaster." one analyst said. "The only thing supporting the shares is the bid speculation." Safeway shares closed 9.5p lower at 355.5p.

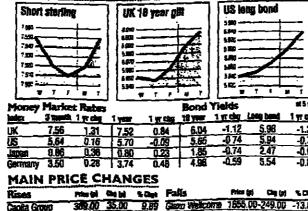
In its trading update - which had been delayed for almost a month - Safeway said sales growth over Christmas had been just 1.1 per cent on last year but had improved to 3.2 per cent year on year in the seven weeks to 21 February.

The group is to close 22 of the older Safeway branches and sell or close 22 of the re-£40m investment in improving maining Presto stores that are

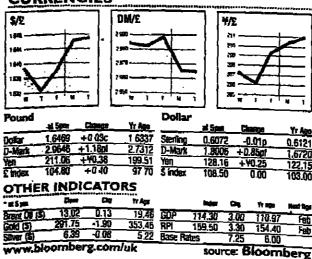




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Chang



brief encounter

elivers fresh profit warning

This was more than just a clash of egos

Was it just clash of ego, or something more substantive that caused the Glaxo Wellcome merger with SmithKline Beecham to fall apart? Certainly there appears to have been a large element of the former. But equally, it doesn't seem credible that this was the whole story. With so much riding on the outcome, deals of this magnitude are not meant to fail on matters as trivial as who has the bigger office. When mergers come unstuck, the one (personality clash) is usually a symptom of deeper rooted structural and cultural

In the case of big companies, these differences are often profound, despite the homogenisation of management and marketing techniques brought about by the process of globalisation. It may well be that companies of this size and ambition simply aren't meant to merge - that they are just 100 different and already too large to make it work. You can have all the synergies, cost cutting potential, and in this case supposed scientific advantages of combining rival drug discovery technologies, in the world but still they would not add up to anything without the cultural unity and purpose that lies at the heart

of all successful modern day corporations. The salutary lesson in pharmaceuticals is Pharmacia & Upjohn, which since the two companies were merged has degenerated into a case study of factional infighting and loss of direction. In this instance, the two companies had national and language rivalries to surmount as well as underlying cultural ones. That's not

the case with Glaxo and SmithKline. deal was misconceived, but there was too None the less, the differences are big enough to set the alarm bells ringing. If clash of personality has saved these two companies from the same fate as Pharmacia & Upjohn, then shareholders may have something to be thankful for after

Perhaps the biggest mystery is how the two sides managed to get so close to the alter without realising their inability to work with one another. Glazo Wellcome and Smithkline tried once before to merge - about this time last year - but the talks broke down before being made public on who would occupy the top posts. It was thought that the removal of Sean Lance as chief executive in waiting at Glaxo, had lanced that particular boil (as it were) and that the way had been cleared for marriage. Two weeks of talking turkey has revealed otherwise.

So how did Sir Richard Sykes and Jan Leschly come to make such a mistake? Part of the answer lies in the speed with which all this happened. There was SmithKline in merger talks with American Home Products. That was a deal that would have converted SmithKline finally and fully into an American company. For Sir Richard, who is passionate in his defence of Britain's world lead in pharmaceuticals, that was too much. A big part of his motivation became that of keeping SmithKline British, and he rushed into a deal which in truth needed a much longer gestation period.

Within days it became clear that the

much riding on it to pull the plug. Sir Richard is a stubborn, often belligerent Yorkshireman. He was never going to work happily with the equally autocratic Jan Leschly, a go-getting, Americanised,

There were wider issues too. Was it really credible that the top, second, and third tier of jobs be shared equally between the two companies when the rationale for the merger was prescribed pharmaceuticals. where Glaxo is far bigger than SmithKline? According to insiders there was snobbery and arrogance on the part of Glaxo's people, who looked down their noses at SmithKline's over the counter and consumer products. Here then was the potential for wider ranging discord and argument.

There may have been other matters too. SmithKline is growing more strongly than Glazo right now, but its medium term product pipeline is probably not as good and its patent protection on existing products not as waterproof as it pre-

The general view in the City is that ego has scuppered what would have been a sensationally good merger with unparalleled potential for new product development. The truth is a good deal more complex and if by halting the process at the eleventh hour Sir Richard has caused executives more generally to question the feasibility and motives of the global mega-merger, he may have done everyhungry investment bankers and corporate lawyers around, that may be expecting too

Wounded in the trolley wars

Profits warnings at Safeway have become a bit like buses. You wait around expecting one for ages and then several come along all at once. Three in this case - and what corkers they have been too. Just over a year ago the City was expecting Safeway to make profits of more than £500m this financial year. Now those predictions have been cut to just £350m, a reduction of 30 per cent.

The generous view is that Safeway's travails now are akin to those suffered by Sainsbury a couple of years ago - sluggish sales, problems with product availability and management complacency. In truth there are distinct differences, which may make it difficult for Safeway to emulate Sainsbury's recovery. While Sainsbury's always had a strong brand and a good store portfolio, Safeway has neither. Its brand name is by comparison minor league and

its stores are worse. And then there is the management. Colin Smith and his team seem to be all at sea, casting around for ideas. David Webster, the chairman, and the last of the Gulliver triumvirate which put Argyll on the map, seems an increasingly peripheral and disinterested figure. Indeed there could be some significant in the fact that one a service. But then with all those fee the top three in this company are all fi-

nance directors by background, more used to financial wizardry than the cut and thrust of trading in one of Britain's most competitive industries.

Tesco, by contrast, has a marketing man at the helm - Terry Leahy. Asda is run by a highly regarded fast moving consumer goods expert - Allan Leighton. Both are a decade younger than the Safeway top brass, who continue to maintain a comfy office in Mayfair while the real business is going on in Hayes.

No wonder the company has become the subject of persistent bid speculation. With M&S ruling itself out, Asda still represents the most likely potential partner for Safeway. But while Safeway may need Asda, it is not clear Asda needs Safeway. Asda might be able to add some value with its lower priced offer and more dynamic management. But many Safeway shops are too small for Asda's non-food lines. Besides, Asda will be picking up market share anyway with the number four in the pack struggling.

Even if Asda were keen, regulatory hurdles could well prove insurmountable. The Somerfield-Kwik Save merger, which is unlikely to be blocked on competition grounds, only makes matters worse. Regulators may be prepared to allow one grocery merger through on the nod, but not two. Safeway faces the prospect of lagging further and further behind in the trolley wars - a distant fourth to the new "Big Three." It may not be entirely management's fault but the City won't be forgiving all the same. Expect more top level executive changes over the

British Midland takes shock U-turn by launching US routes

By Michael Harrison

British Midland, the country's second biggest scheduled airline, yesterday signalled a sharp change in strategy by unveiling plans to launch transatiantic services to 10 US cities.

OUTLOOK

OF GLAXO AND

THE PROBLEMS

FACING SAFEWAY

SMITHKLINE, AND

ON THE FALLING OUT

The announcement came less than three months after the airline's chairman, Sir Michael Bishop, warned of an impending "bloodbath" on the North Atlantic and criticised moves to turn Heathrow into a "bucket and spade airport" for the US.

Up until now British Mid-

land has concentrated on building up its domestic and European services using its privileged position at Heathrow, where it controls 14 per cent of all runway slots. Now it has applied to the Civil Aviation Authority for route licences to 10 US destinations. including New York, Washington, Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, Los Angeles and Miami. It aims to start operating services

within the next 18 months with an initial fleet of three aircraft. It will take British Midland into direct competition on US

routes with British Airways and Virgin Atlantic, the only two UK carriers allowed to operate scheduled services across the Atlantic.

Austin Reid, British Midpending "open skies" agreement between Britain and the US which will allow any airline to operate across the Atlantic. He also said suitable aircraft were likely to be available earlier and more cheaply because the Asian downturn was forcing carriers to

Mr Reid said British Midland would have preferred to complete its expansion into Europe before embarking on long-haul services but had been "stopped in its tracks" by the lack of available slots.

reschedule or defer deliveries.

In contrast, the long-awaited British Airways-American Airlines alliance is expected to see up to 300 slots taken from the two carriers and redistributed to other transatlantic operators.

Up to five US carriers are expected to enter the market in addition to its two existing operators, American and Unit-

ed Airlines. "In terms of UK plc that is a rather unequal equation," Mr Reid said.

In contrast to a warning last December from his chairman's about "the air-fare war land's managing director, said the to end all air-fare wars" on the move had been driven by the im- Atlantic, Mr Reid added: "We see significant benefits arising from increased competition on transatiantic routes and it is essential that the number of UK airlines servicing the market is increased to three."

Mr Reid denied that British Midland was acting as a "stalking horse" for SAS, the Scandinavian carrier which owns 40 per cent of the airline. SAS is also a member of the Star Alliance, with which the BA-AA alliance will compete.

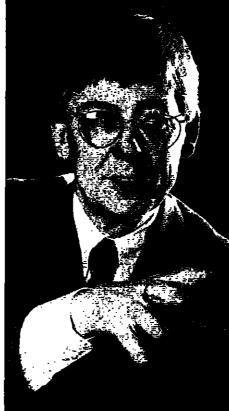
He said that SAS has only been informed yesterday morning of British Midland's decision to apply for the route licences, though as a major shareholder it had been kept informed of the company's plans to enter the long-haul market.

British Midland is also studying the possibility of teaming up with a partner when it enters the US market.



'Open skies will lead to a bloodbath across the Atlantic. There will be the air-fare war to end all air-fare wars. We don't want to see Heathrow become a bucket-and-spade airport for the US'

Sir Michael Bishop, chairman, British Midland, 8 December, 1997



'We see significant consumer benefits arising from increased competition on transatlantic routes and it is essential that the number of UK airlines serving the market is increased to three

Austin Reid, chief executive, British Midland, 24 Febraury, 1998, announcing plans to fly to I0 US destinations

Greenspan sees moderate growth as Asia crisis bites

The Federal Reserve forecasts moderate and balanced US growth this year with the fall-out from Asia keeping inflation in check, Fed chairman Alan Greenspan said yesterday. suggesting the Fed may leave borrowing costs unchanged for some time to come. While 1998 began with considerable momentum, the Fed expects growth of 2-2.75 per cent this year, as the effects of Asia's crisis start to be felt. However, given the economy's exemplary performance so late into an expansion, the forecasts are "more tentative than usual", Mr

Holiday opening for Liffe

The London International Financial Futures Exchange (Liffe) is to open for business on May 4, the May Day bank holiday, because of a crunch EU meeting scheduled for the weekend of May 3 and 4, at which the EU will decide which countries will be included in EMU's first wave. Daniel Hodson, Liffe's chief executive, said: "Given the importance of the meeting and its impact on financial markets, it is Liffe's intention that the exchange will meet market needs by opening for trading on the Bank Holiday."

JP Morgan to cut jobs

JP Morgan, the US investment bank, is to fire around 700 employees, or nearly 5 per cent of its work force, in an attempt to boost profitability. The layoffs, the majority of which will be in the bank's Asian operations, will begin immediately. The cuts are likely to be accompanied by a one-off severance-related charge in the first quarter. In an internal company memo, Douglas Warner, the bank's chairman and chief executive, also raised the possibility of a merger with another firm, although he concluded: "It remains our conviction that no strategic merger yet envisioned matches the promise of our own growth strategy if we execute it successfully."

Siebe buys software supplier

Engineering group Siebe is buying Wonderware, a supplier of Microsoft Windows-based software for the industrial automation market, for £228m to broaden its software product line. Wonderware makes software for Microsoft's Windows operating system that helps companies such as Coca-Cola control and monitor factory processes. .

Standard investment house

Standard Life, the life assurer, is to form a new investment house. The new company, Standard Life Investment Management, will be run as a separate business within the Standard Life Group. Standard Life, which has been gradually building up its investment management business over the last four years, said it was "ready to compete with the established players in fund management". Sandy Crombie, currently group chief investment manager, will become chief executive of the new subsidiary.

Capita targets recruitment

Capita, the fast-expanding outsourcing group, yesterday said it expected human resources to be its next area for growth. The company, which has already won numerous hicrative outsourcing deals in local and central government, is offering companies a full range of services ranging from recruitment to payroll management. Rod Aldridge, chairman, said yesterday that companies increasingly view these activities as peripheral. "Obviously staff are core for most companies, but many are realising they don't need to control the recruitment process," he said. His comments came as Capita reported a 49 per cent increase in pre-tax profits to £17.9m on turnover up 55 per cent at £173m.

Be prepared for euro, Brown urges

By Diane Coyle Economics Editor

GORDON BROWN, the Chancellor of the Exchequer. yesterday stressed the importance of being ready for the start of the single European currency on 1 January 1999 even though the Government has postponed British entry. "We must be ready to get the most from it for Britain," he told MPs, reaffirming the Government's policy of enthusiasm in principle but caution in practice.

The Chancellor's evidence before the Treasury Committee of the House of Commons gencrated unusual excitement when Quentin Davies, a Tory Euro-enthusiast, accused the Government of "running away from taking a decision because of

pressure from Rupert Murdoch which wanted to join would and his stable of newspapers. But Mr Brown denied the

charge that his five economic tests for British membership were a pretence. "Other countries have been preparing for monetary union for almost six years now. We have not made those preparations," he said, explaining the decision to stay out of the first wave.

The Chancellor refused to answer repeated questions about whether the UK would be prepared to veto the membership of any other country which did not meet the strict letter of the Maastricht criteria for membership.

"Over a period of time there have been considerable advances," he said, asked about whether all those countries

meet the targets for the levels of budget deficits and debt set out in the treaty.

Britain, which holds the EU presidency, would look carefully at the reports from the European Commission and European Monetary Institute next month, Mr Brown said. He refused to be drawn on which countries he thought would qualify. The Chancellor emphasised

the practical preparations that would be needed before the UK could join and the need for sustainable economic convergence. He confirmed it would be possible for companies to have their shares quoted and to pay taxes in euros from next January.

Mr Brown said the UK and other European countries had an agenda of economic reform rency would satisfy his test on jobs - one of the five set out by the Treasury - if this programme of structural reform was under way

by early in the next parliament. Separately, Helen Liddell. Economic Secretary to the Treasury, launched a green paper on the future of official statistics. The paper set out four options for an independent national statistical service.

Ms Liddell said there were widespread doubts about the validity of many statistics, and the Government attached the greatest importance to improving their integrity. The option under which some departments would keep control of their statistics. subject to an independent commission or governing board, looks the most likely outcome. I rate payers costs the Treasury

Funds warn on Budget high-rate tax hit threat to pension saving

By Andrew Verity

PENSION funds yesterday fired a shot across the Treasury's bows amid mounting speculation that the Government will slash tax relief for higher-rate taxpayers in the forthcoming Budget. The National Association of

Pension Funds, whose members control £350bn of employees' savings, is warning that a cut would prompt both employers and employees to flock away from pension saving. A higherrate taxpayer who pays £60 to a pension currently receives an extra £40 in higher-rate tax relief. A basic-rate taxpayer making the same payment sees

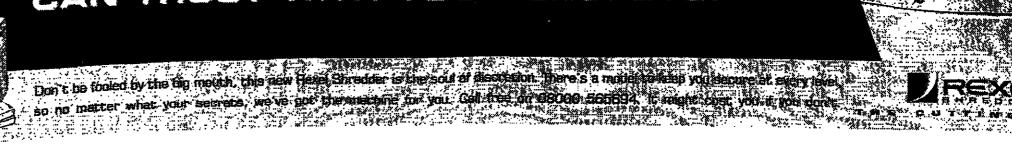
just £23 going in to a scheme. The extra tax relief for higher-

£800m a year, prompting speculation that Gordon Brown, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, will limit tax relief to the basic rate

of tax in his 17 March Budget. The NAPF warned that a cut would "torpedo" schemes to which 8 million workers belong. Peter Murray, NAPF chairman, said: "Employers who provide occupational pension schemes will put up with only so much before they decide it is no longer worth the cost and hassle of coping with constant change."

Employees making payments from their own pay would be worse off than those in noncontributory schemes. An employee earning £40,000 contributing 5 per cent would see a reduction in take-home pay of £340 a year.





The investment column

THE INDEPENDENT

MEDMECUAN SE-EEDBISSON

EDITED BY ANDREW YATES

Sema's rating is hard to justify

PROFITS up 28 per cent to £64.1m, shares down 7.5p to 1885p; nothing could better illustrate the inflated expectations in the information technology sector than investors' reaction to Sema's results. And who can blame them?

The shares, which have risen by 43 per cent since the beginning of December, now trade on a multiple of 41 times the forecast for this year's earnings by broker Credit Suisse First Boston. Sema is growing quickly, but is it expanding fast enough to justify that kind of rating?

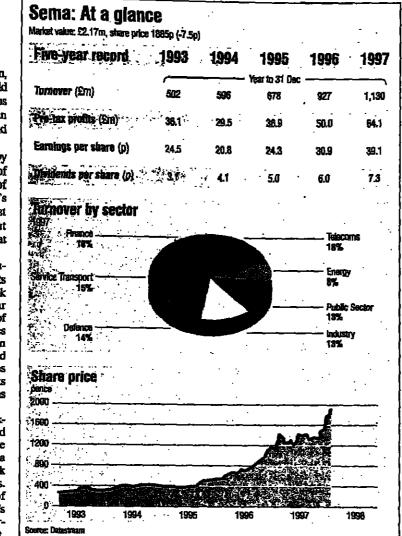
Pierre Bonelli, Sema's chief executive, would like you to think so. He points to the company's swelling order book - bolstered just last week by a five-year £305m deal to take over the running of the Benefits Agency's medical services division. Then there's the contribution from recent acquisitions, which chipped in operating profits of £4.5m on sales of £75.6m. Mr Bonelli also thinks there's room to improve profit margins from their current levels.

Finally, there's the potential to expand in the US - a move that was ruled out until the middle of last year because US regulators deemed Sema to be a subsidiary of Paribas, the French bank which is one of its major shareholders.

That said, there are plenty of reasons to be sceptical. For one, Sema's underlying growth rate is not as marvellous as the headline figures suggest. Strip out currencies and acquisitions, and turnover was up 14 per cent last year - creditable, no doubt, but not spectacular in this booming industry. Admiral, Sema's smaller rival, yesterday reported a 29 per cent increase in turnover, with no contribution from acquisitions at all.

On margins, too, Sema falls short. Admiral's operating margins increased to 14.5 per cent last year. Sema's edged up to just 6 per cent. Although the company is aiming to increase its return on sales, higher R&D spending on its software products will also push up costs.

Then there is the US. Sema clearly needs an acquisition, but seems confused about what to aim for. Mr Bonelli reckons there are several op-tions: buy a series of smaller product price valuation is now completely out ing" and "dreadful"? Well, in this companies, splash out up to \$1bn (£610m) on a Sema lookalike, spend a similar amount on a company specialising in, say, telecoms, or get into the market through outsourcing contracts. All that's clear is that Sema still has to make up its mind.



In the meantime, Sema will have to keep on hiring staff. The company needs to take on 1,000 we kers this year to handle all the work, and will need another 1,000 to replace the ones who leave for jobs elsewhere. Mr Bonelli doesn't seem to think this is a problem. But as rival Logica found to its cost last possible spin on annual results. In coryear, the market is unforgiving about

Let's be clear. Sema is a quality company. It's well managed, its track record is admirable, it's in a fastgrowing industry, and the opportunities for future growth are mouth-watering. But lemming-like buying by British fund managers in of kilter with any reasonable assessment of its prospects.

slips in this particular area.

Given the real possibility of skills shortages restraining growth or of Sema overpaying for an acquisition in the US, all the risk is on the downside.

NatWest has yet

IN THE normal course of things, a company's board tries to put the best porate-speak, "excellent progress" tends to mean "satisfactory" to you or me, and when Mr or Mrs Chief Executive says "satisfactory", it's usually safe to assume things haven't gone quite as well as planned.

more problems

What to make, then, of NatWest's annual results, published yesterday and described variously by its manparticular case, investors would be wise if they were to believe the hype. Pre-tax profits for the year to December dropped by 10 per cent to £1.0bn, largely because of last year's débâcle at Nat West Markets (NWM), the group's investment banking arm. NWM turned

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Family PC"

in a pre-tax loss of £706m, compared to a small profit of £98m in 1996.

The relatively mild reaction in the City - Nat West shares finished the day down 21p at 1104p - was due to the fact that everybody had been well prepared for the NWM hit. When Nat West announced the sale, of its equities operations last year, it also warned that NWM was going to put a sizeable hole in its 1997 figures.

If it were simply the case that Nat West had now washed its hands of an expensive mistake - namely its equity business - and that the things elsewhere were hunky-dory, investors would have every reason to feel upbeat. Unfortunately for Nat West, things do not seem quite so dear-cut. Yesterday's results contained some worrying signs that, outside the group's core UK bank, there could be more pain in store for shareholders in the months to come.

Coutts, the private banking arm, had a particularly bad time. Its pre-tax profits slumped by 72 per cent to £29m, following over-hasty US expansion. The picture wasn't much better at Gartmore, the fund manager, and Greenwich Nat West, the former NWM debt business.

.Gartmore lost a series of high-profile institutional accounts during the year, and business at Greenwich NatWest was hit by uncertainty surrounding NatWest's future strategy for NWM. Neither is it clear where NatWest's corporate advisory boutiques now fit into the group's strategy, given that part of the rationale for buying these businesses was that they generated synergies with the now defunct equities ann.

Shareholders can take some consolation from the performance of the UK bank, which saw pre-tax profits surge by almost 50 per cent to £962m. With a wide-ranging rationalisation and modemisation programme now well underway, the UK bank should continue to increase its profits in the years to come.

Given the worries over NatWest's non-core businesses, why has the stock soared in recent months? The answer is quite simple: because of hopes that some other bank will come along and put NatWest out of its misery. The banking sector has been rife with merger rumours of late, many of them centring on Nat West. But, given its recent attempts to dispel rumours of an up-and-coming deal with arch-rival Barclays, these hopes look increasingly desperate. Unless a concrete bid materialises, the shares will probably slide. Estimates from Salomon Smith Barney put NatWest on forward p/e of around 16, making it look pricey compared to the rest of the banking sector. Steer clear.

Skills head wants tougher regime on qualifications

By Barrie Clement Labour Editor

BRITAIN'S new skills "czar" has attacked the present qualifications system for being wide open to abuse. Chris Humphries, who has just been appointed to lead the Government's training taskforce, believes there should be a much tougher regime to reassure employers about the quality of National Vocational Qualifications (NVQs).

His call comes as the Government today prepared to launch its proposals for a university for industry.

chief executive of the TEC National Council, will combine his part-time job at the taskforce

of Commerce. In an interview with The In-

people qualifying in information technology and engineering. The skills taskforce would

He contended, however,

Mr Humphries, currently

general of the British Chambers tain geographical areas.

dependent, Mr Humphries pointed out that there was a clear "over-supply" of trainees studying tourism, leisure, media and healthcare, and a shortage of

need to identify and respond to industry's skills needs. There should be better information on which youngsters, parents and employers could base decisions.

that it was often a mistake to talk in general terms about skills shortages. In the construction industry, for instance,

with his new post, as director shortages were specific to cer-

He argued that there should be a means through which funding could be directed where it

was most needed. It was clear there was "potential to exploit" the system of training accreditation, he said, particularly where the organisation providing the training was also awarding the qualifications. "The system is not consistently bad, but it is not consistently good."

While large organisations like the City & Guilds and the Royal Society of Arts could not afford to award spurious qualifications there were hundreds of other bodies which might be less scrupulous, he believed.

Arriva set to expand Dutch bus operations

ARRIVA, the transport group, yesterday flagged the prospect of further expansion in Europe. as it unveiled record pre-tax profits fuelled by recent bus acciuisitions.

Gordon Hodgson, chief executive, said Arriva was in talks with an unnamed party about expanding its Dutch bus operations and was upbeat about a deal being struck soon.

"Talks are under way and I would be disappointed if something did not happen as a result," said the Arriva boss. He said the finance department had been busy lining up £100m worth of financing to fund expansion.

Arriva, which recently changed its name from Cowie Group, fleshed out its expansionist ambitions after reporting record year pre-tax profits of £101m, a rise of 24 per cent.

Turnover at the bus to motor retailing group rose to £1.42bn and the annual dividend was 13.5p per share. Shares rose 13p to close at 376.5p.

The main aim for the coming year was to build operations in Europe after becoming "one of Europe's top five private bus operators", Mr Hodgson said. A move into rail for the first time was a natural transition.

Ewart receives fifth bid approach in two days

trol of Ewart, the Belfast-based property group, took a bizarre members then said they had twist yesterday when the company received its fifth bid approach in the space of two days.

The company revealed it was considering a "bona fide approach from a substantial UK listed company" that might lead to a takeover offer. The news came after two rival companies. Moyne and Dunioe House, each put in two bids. On Monday, Brian O'Con-

nor, Ewart chairman, urged shareholders to accept a 75p-ashare offer from Dunloe House, at a "tangibly higher level".

THE acrimonious battle for con- an Irish property developer. A majority of independent board agreed to accept a 79p-a-share offer from Moyne, a shelf company created for the bid by drinks entrepreneur Paul Hunt. The chief executive at one stage threatened to take legal action against Mr O'Connor.

Yesterday Moyne upped its bid to 81p a share, an offer that was matched by Dunloe House. In a statement, Ewart said

the new mystery offer matched the existing offers and would also provide a paper alternative

COMPANY	RESUL	TS		
	Turnover £	Pre-tax £	EPS	Dividend
Admiral (F)	117.2m (90.8m)	17.6m (11.2m)	17.8p (11.6p)	2.9p (2.25p)
Access Plat (F)	16.23m (10.81m)	2,4m (1.62m)	10.36p (7.68p)	4.45p (3.5p)
Alestopec Group (f)	81.0m (84.9m)	4.3m (8.5m)	7.5p (10.8p)	2.45p (2.45p)
Arrhea (F)	1.42bn (1.13bn)	101.0m (81.2m)	36.1p (33.2p)	13.5p (12.4p)
Capita Group (F)	173.0m (112.0m)	18.3m (12.3m)	6.51p (4.75p)	2.1p (1.6p)
Cartabreaka Shipping (F)	12.18m (12.71m)	-1.59m (1.Q2m)	-1 6.3 p (10.9p)	1.0p}
Chartechpuse Cemen (I)	2.63m (2.21m)	Q.501m (0.366m)	0.38p (0.23p)	0.12p
Obxon Motors (F)	413.6m (262.6m)	8.7m (5.5m)	26.3p (19.9p)	7.5p (6.0p)
Easypeat (F)	7.43m (2.16m)	-1.32m (-0.97 im)	-6.43p (-6.34p)	
Natificat (F)	- ()	1.01bn (1.12bn)	46.9p (66.6p)	32.2p (29.0p)
Pites (i)	24.20m (21.69m)	7.1m (1.82m)	10.4p (7.7p)	3.0p (2.5)
Radius (F)	27.7m (27.3m)	1.12m (1.59m)	2.9p (4.1p)	0.55p (1.65p)
Seems Group (F)	1.30bn (0.927m)	B4.1m (50.0m)	39,14p (30.94p)	7.30 (6.0p)
SEET (I)	7.06m (4.01m)	0.408m (0.109m)	5.7p (2.17p)	
Steel Burrill Journ (F)	37.7m (39.9m)	-1.37m (2.21m)	-2.59p (3.09p)	1.5p (1.5p)
William Stockels (1)	24.33m (21.91m)	2.82m (2.24m)	8.6p (6.9p) ·	24p (21p)
Courge Winney (F)	1.22bn (1.26bn)	63.1m (31,5m)	12.06p (5.84p)	5.7p (5.5p)
(F) - Arsal (I) - Interior	† EPS is pre-excep	tionals. "Dividend to	be paid as a FID	1 14 1 74

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COMPUTER SYSTEMS

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This first class hotel occupies a classic Georgian Building dating from the 18th century. In the heart of the city, its 195 bedrooms and suites enjoy superb views ower the city and the Firth of Forth. sing options include a choice of three restaurants and bars including the recently refurbished Carvers Restaurant, housed in one of the most speciacular dining halls in Edinburgh.

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A fantastic choice of locations is available, and each of the participating hotels is perfectly located for the city's shopping areas, attractions and places of interest.

most global hotel.

ficient service you would expect from the world's

wants tougher qualifications

wart receives fifth bid sproach in two days

Footsie recovers from merger breakdown shock

MARKET REPORT



DEREK PAIN

THE STOCK market survived the collapse of the world's biggest merger withment. In early trading Footsie 355.5p). was off 117.9 points. By the close the fall had been cut to 51.8 at 5,651.

Yet Glavo Wellcome and decline. So if the falling out stripped out of the calculation Footsie would have ended in the black, up 23.3.

Glaxo crashed 247p (after 314p) to 1,657p and SB 83p (after 102p) to 724p. When the drug-induced delirium countancy or drug problems first hit the market Glaxo also helped sentiment. jumped to 1,983p and SB to 845p. Glaxo is near its premerger price; SB, which had been buoyed by its aborted deal with American Home dency to use cash, rather than 1.130p. Products, is 56p below its level when the Glaxo deal was

out needing any shock treat- Safeway (9.5p down at

The breakdown of the world's biggest merger, which would have created a £100bn drugs behemoth, sent shock the speculation resumed. The SmithKline Beecham were waves through early trading. responsible for a 75.1 points But although turnover in the two thwarted drug groups in particular insurances. of the two drug giants was was heavy the market quickly swung round to the view that the various bid permutations had, if anything, increased.

The fact that the merger had been killed by a personality clash rather than any ac-

another factor. Shares are popular guess as GA climbed now in short supply. The rush of share buybacks and the ten- 440.75p and CU 24p to equity, in takeovers has lowered the share pool at a time were pressed into service. when many fund managers. The market also had to after two years on the side-

from National Westminster their portfolios. An upheaval Bank (off 21p at 1,104p) and of the Giaxo/SB variety is, another trollyful of woe from therefore, a blessing to equity-short fund managers.

With the cult of the merger still very strong there was hardly time for the Glaxo/SB last rites before market opted for an old favourite - money shares and

The globalisation argument applies to financials as well as drugs. And with three insurers reporting today the temptation to alight again on the sector proved irresistible.

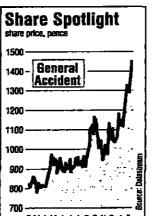
Commercial Union, GRE and General Accident were in the frame. A deal involving The stock shortage was any two of the three was the 83p to 1,455p; GRE 20,75p to

Other takeover candidates Reckitt & Colman, with Unilever the alleged predator, contend with the poor results lines, are scrambling to build jumped 42p to 1,105p and

Standard Chartered (again) 16p to 758p.

598p with Dresdner Kleinwort Benson suggesting a 668p target, and a Goldman Sachs upgrading helped Cadbury 770p, a peak.

Utilities were depressed by



climate. Severn Trent underlined worries that the Gov-

Away from bid speculation ernment may clamp down BAT Industries rose 17p to next month on profits and dividends at an analysts' presentation. United Utilities fell 30p to 772p; Thames Water 18p to 847p and PowerGen a handsome profit. The issue Schweppes 13.5p higher to 11p to 812p. Severn Trent price was around 18p. sank 16p to 902p. Morgan Stanley is cautious on the

fears of a tougher regulatory sector.

SkyePharma gained 7.5p to 62.5p following a link with SmithKline over its Paxil treatment for nervous disorders. SG Securities sees any reason for the strength of SkyePharma moving into its shares and replaced a profits with a £3.3m outcome next year and £50m in the year DRS Data said there was no Scotia fell 30p to 322.5p

after a licence application was withdrawn. Wolverhampton & Dudley Breweries firmed to 497.5p

cent, rose 10p to 127.5p, and after buying back 1.5 million shares at 495p. Manchester Utd, the best vately owned Joe Bloggs is

performing football share, said to hover, hardened a discovered that being top of further 2p to 16p.

the Premiership is not enough

to bolster its investment ap-

peal. The shares fell 4p to

141p, lowest for more than a

year. Still any investor (or

supporter) who backed the

1991 flotation is still sitting on

MSB International, an IT

group, gained 35p to 807.5p

as Merrill Lynch started re-

searching the company with a

group, said it did not know

22.5p gain with a 12p fall.

"underlying reason" for the

weakness of its shares; they

promptly reduced a 4.5p fall,

Rubin family with 25.04 per

Lestie Wise, where the pri-

Delyn, on the arrival of the

ending 2p off at 16p.

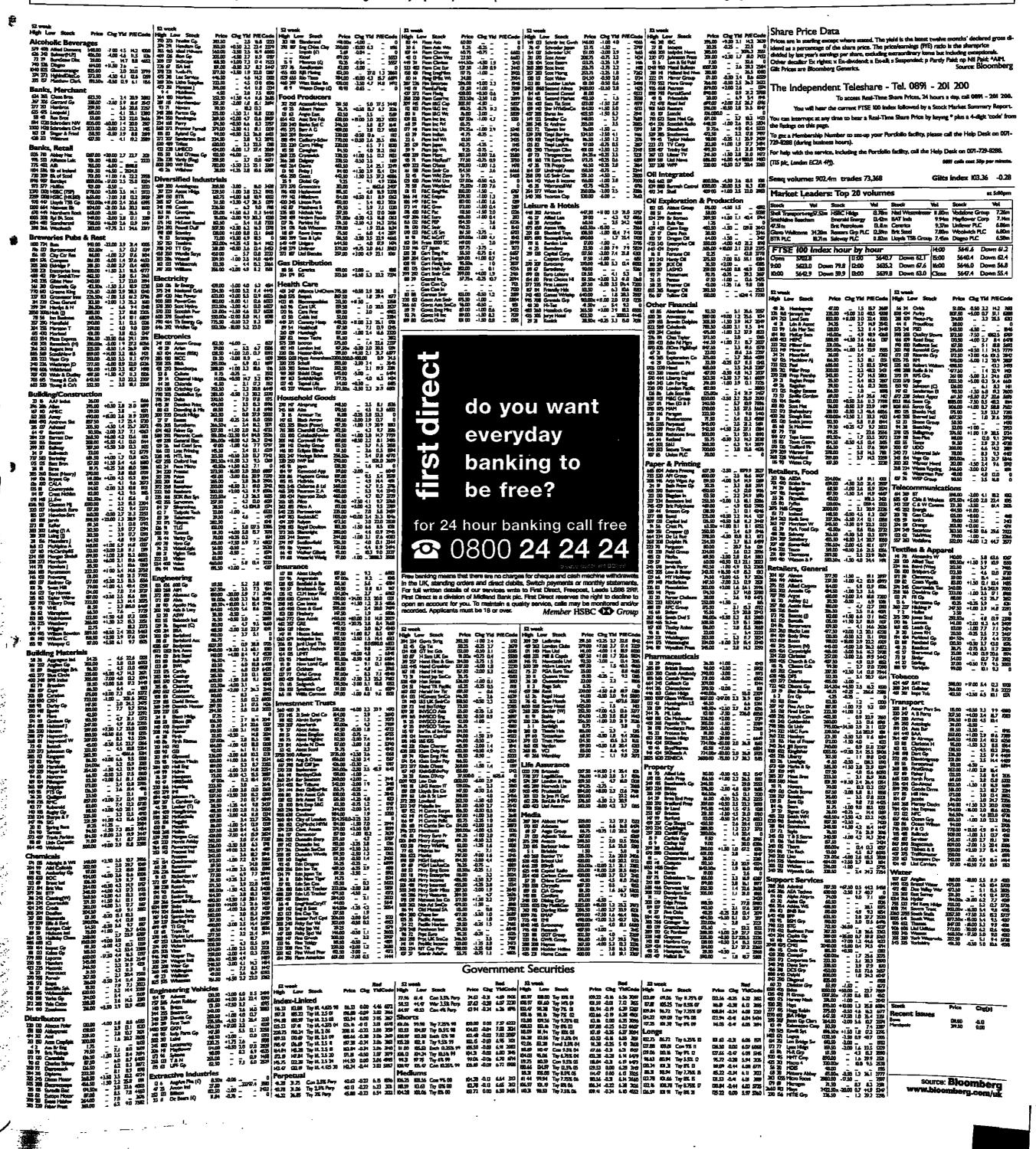
Dudley Jenkins, a mailing

buy recommendation.

Shares of BBA, the engineer, have under-performed yet, points out stockbroker Greig Middleton, it has little Far Eastern exposure and sterling's strength is often offset. It sees profits improving £12m to £153m last year and reaching £174m this year. The shares were little changed at 418.5p.

Deep Sea Leisure rose 5p to 320p, a high. The shares have climbed from 167.5p in the past three months, prompting predictable stories that a predator is eyeing the group. DSL operates an aquarium in North Queensferry, Scotland, and is near to opening another between Chester and Ellesmere Port.

Nat Solomon, former chief of Pleasurama and Tottenham Hotspur, has become chairman of Ofex-traded Distinctive Leisure, a little pubs group. He has acquired 500,000 shares (1.7 per cent) at 3p. The Ofex price is 2.5p.



THE INDEPENDENT

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NDENT

plan for

O'Donnell

Rugby League

DEWSBURY, the First Divi-

sion club, are preparing to fly

Australian forward David O'Donnell to Amsterdam and back in an effort to play him against Wigan in the Silk Cut

Challenge Cup on Sunday.

The Yorkshire club have been refused a work permit for the former captain of Paris St

Germain, but are hopeful of

winning an appeal to the De-

partment for Education and

If that comes through,

Dewsbury will book him on an

early morning return flight to

Bob McDermott, a Dews-

bury official, explains: "You

can't obtain a work permit for

an overseas player while he is

in the country so we have made

provisional arrangements to fly

him to Amsterdam and back on

the same plane. We have made

inquiries and we know we can

get him on a flight early on Fri-

day morning so he would be

Dewsbury expect a decision

by tomorrow. Donnell was

among a host of former Paris

players refused permits because

of an arrangement made with the

Rugby Football League last year.

Paris's Australian contingent

to see out the season on temporary visas, but warned that the

matches would not count towards permits for 1998. Meanwhile. Wigan have crit-

icised Dewsbury's arrangements

for Sunday's all-ticket fifth-

round tie. The New Crown Flatt

capacity was reduced by 1,000

to just 3,300 because of safety

work needed on the four-year-

old South Stand but Dewsbury

say they will be able to accom-

modate an extra 500 spectators

on grassy banks behind each set

The Department allowed

back for lunchtime."

the Dutch capital on Friday.

Employment this week

Amsterdam

Racing libel case: QCs for both plaintiffs and defendants make their summing up speeches. Greg Wood reports

'Sordid, squalid, seedy, stains like the Swaffham must be scrubbed clean'

QC for The Sporting Life

THE SWAFFHAM Handicap at ket a few hours after the Swaffham. Newmarket in 1995 was yesterday de-that he had pulled Top Cees because stain" on racing's integrity, as counsel made their closing addresses to the Fallon, the champion jockey, against The Sponing Life newspaper.

Hartley QC, representing The Sporting Life. He insisted that Fallon had deliberately "pulled" Top Cees, the favourite, in the Swaffham, on the orders of Jack Ramsden, and that The Life had thus been justified in de-Chester Cup three weeks later.

mitted to him, during a conversation

"The idea that Mr Thompson came here willingly to lie to you is grotesque." jury in the libel action brought by Jack Hartley told the jury. "He did not want Ramsden, his wife Lynda and Kieren to come. It may be suggested that he came here to save his career, but the very opposite is the truth. Mr Thomp- evidence". Further, he said, "you may The description formed part of the son came to the court in the certain final rhetorical flourish of Richard knowledge that his evidence would harm his career. Mr Fallon admitted being in the inn and talking to Mr ly as a betting medium." Thompson. We suggest that after at least three vodka and tonics, his tongue was loosened and he told the truth."

scribing the Ramsdens as "cheats" fol- Fallon's word against Mr Thomplowing Top Cees' easy success in the son's". But could they, he asked, believe the jockey, who "agreed he has Hartley said the evidence given by an appalling record at the Jockey Derek Thompson, a presenter with Club," and had "admitted that he lied racing for all sorts of reasons, and they Channel 4 Racing, was "crucial". to the Jockey Club over his failure to Thompson testified that Fallon had ad- turn up for a 'previous hearing." do so if its integrity stays intact and if Why, he asked, had Milmo been so sordid, squalid and seedy stains like the in the Old Plough Inn near Newmar- "desperate to discredit Mr Thomp- Swaffham are scrubbed clean."



tipping line? Because he knows this address by Patrick Milmo QC, repevidence is the key which unlocks the resenting the Ramsdens and Fallon, door to what really happened in the paddock at Newmarket.

Hardey said the conviction of Tom Clarke, The Sporting Life's editor, that the article was true "shone through his ask whether anyone on the plaintiff's side expressed any real affection for the Thompson, was confessing to a very sport. Mr Ramsden clearly sees it mere-

The Ramsdens, he said, had "told so many lies and half-truths, and contradicted themselves so many times, It was, Hartley said, a case of "Mr that you may think Walter Scott had them in mind when he wrote: "Oh concluded by saying that "people love all want it to prosper, but it can only

Thompson has been trapped by his own deceit. He is a name-dropper'

QC for Ramsdens and Kieren Fallon

son with endless questions about his THE CENTREPIECE of the closing to think he is friendly with everyone. was an attack on the credibility of Derek Thompson's evidence.

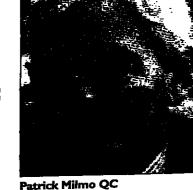
"The starting point," Milmo said. "is that the scale of improbability of Derek Thompson's tale being true is guite monumental. What Kieren Fallon was doing, according to Mr serious breach of the rules by himself and by his employers, perhaps even amounting to criminal conduct. It could certainly ruin his career. Derek Thompson is not a friend or even an acquaintance, and he knew he was connected with the media. Surely he what a tangled web we weave, when was the last person you would want once we practise to deceive." Hartley to know if you had done something like that."

Milmo argued that Thompson "has been trapped by his own deceit". ing with the character of the map. He

You can imagine him telling people the next day that his good friend Kieren Fallon had told him that he'd stopped Top Cees. He no doubt thought it the end of the matter, leaving his reputation as a man who knows everything slightly enhanced."

The libel action, however, presented Thompson with "an unwelcome choice. He either had to put his hands up and say to his colleagues. 'sorry, what I told you was untrue', or stick to his story whatever the consequences. He at least would be okay." The presenter, Milmo said, was "someone who practises deception, albeit of a minor kind, day by day".

Milmo said that the jury had not heard "from a single punter or ordinary racegoer", but rather "a succession of journalists and Channel 4 Racing team members, all assisting He said that this was "entirely in keep-each other". The article, he said, was "an illustration of the power and aris a name-dropper who likes people rogance of the press and related me-



dia. They decide the agenda, who is guilty and not guilty of misconduct. and we must accept it from them." The Ramsdens, Milmo said, had been "crucified by the media and The Sporting Life," and it was one of the jury's tasks "to see that this kind of abuse of power is not permitted."

Of the plaintiffs, he said: "You must ask yourselves if Lynda Ramsden came across as a conspirator in a murky and devious world of pulling horses." Jack Ramsden, he said, had been "an open and candid witness" who "did not shirk for a moment" from full disclosure of his gambling activities. Fallon, meanwhile, had made no attempt to "duck the issue" of his poor disciplinary record. "He is now the champion jockey, contracted to one of the country's most famous trainers, Henry Cecil. Do you think he would have reached those heights by pulling horses?"

It is a question which the jury will be asked to answer today.

General Wolfe doubtful for Grand National

the leading fancies for the Grand National at around 16-1 may miss the race. Tim Forster, his trainer, is awaiting the outcome of veterinary examinations on

the Peter Marsh Chase winner. Forster said yesterday: "General Wolfe has banged a leg or something. The vets will be looking at him in the next few has leg trouble they are not able yesterday for Saturday's Racing while Land Afar is 9-2 from 7-1.

HYPERION

2.20 Pontevedra 2.50 Fatehalkhair 3.20 Swing

Quartet 3.50 Titan Thai 4.20 Jack The Td 4.50

©Course is trn SE of town near junction of A689 and A777. Bus service from Stockton station (9m) or Durham station (12m) ADMISSION: Paddock €6 (OAPs £4); Course £2. CAR PARK: Paddock 27 rest free.

ADMISSION: Paddock ES (UAPS E4); LOUISE EZ. LAN FANTA-Paddock E2, rest free.

QLEADING TRAINERS: Mrs M Reveley 70-239 (283%), J H John-son 20-170 (19%), J Wade 15-169 (89%), P Beaumont 14-75 (184%), QLEADING JOCKEYS: P Niven E3-178 (301%), L Wyer 22-170 (20%), A Dobbin 15-143 (101%), J Supple 14-75 (184%), QFAVOURITES: 230-594 (38.7%), BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Meg's Memory (visored) (250), Be-tension Kotehel 44-55).

2.20 STANLEY RACING HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,000 added 3m 3f 110yds

2.50 HARRY LANE MEMORIAL HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS E) £4,000 added 2m 1f

3.20 EBF TATTERSALLS (IRELAND) NOVICE CHASE (QUALIFIER) (CLASS D) 25,000

2.00 Faym 2.30 Italian Symphony (nb) 3.00

GREENSPAN (nap) 3.30 Brutal Fantasy 4.00

GOING: Standard (All-weather track)
STALLS: 71 - outside; rest - inside.
DRAW ADVANTAGE: High from 61 to fm 41.

Fibresand, left-hand, oval course.
Course is N of town on A449. Wolverhampton station fm.
ADMISSION: Calo 25; Tattersals: 56 (DAP members of Diamond Club 26; Viewing Restaurant 22590 including entrance and meal.
CAR PARK: free.

LEADING TRAINERS: R Hollinshead 64-617 (10.4%), M Johnston SR-275 (2948). Hisping 38-019 (18.2%) P Perse 22-329 (1984).

@LEADING TRAINERS: In nonmanead 94-61 (TUA%), in Johnston 58-55 (22%), P. Heastern 38-30 (162%), P. Brums 22-32 (96%), @LEADING JOCKEYS: S. Sanders 40-336 (18%), D. Hobard 27-39 (19%), Dean McCleown 27-29 (18%), A. Clark 24-216 (11%), @FAVOLRITES: 394-217 (32-4), A. Clark 24-216 (11%), BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Night City (300), Brutat Fentasy (vacred) (330), Operatic (viscred) (400), Double-O (330), Burnium Craft MITR.

2.00 GROUSE MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) 25,500 added 7f

| Color | Colo

2.30 PARTRIDGE CLAIMING STAKES (CLASS F) £3,000 added 7f

Mustn't Grumble 4.30 Prince Ashleigh

Wolverhampton

Sedgefield

Bahamian Knight

GOING: Good to Firm.

no idea whether he will run at National Trial respectively. Aintree for a few days."

RICHARD EDMONDSON NAP: Inchdoney Boy (Folkestone 2.10) NB: Kinda Groovy (Sedgefield 2.20)

Challenger Du Luc and Call

GENERAL WOLFE, among to run for a while but I will have Post Chase and Greenalls Grand

Challenger Du Luc has been cut to 9-4 favourite with Coral, William Hill and Ladbrokes, from a top-priced 7-2 with Coral, while Call It A Day is now 5-1 favourite with William Hill and Ladbrokes after starting the day at 8-1. Super Tactics is 7-2 from 7-1 with William Hill days. Normally when a horse It A Day were heavily backed for the Racing Post Chase,

3.50 ALAN MERRIGAN MEMORIAL H'CAP CHASE (CLASS D) 25,000 added 2m 5f

- 5 declared -BETTING: 5-4 Val De Rasna, 9-4 Titan Thai, 5-2 Crose Carmon, 10-1 Zarnhe-

4.20 SOUTH DURHAM MAIDEN HUNTER CHASE (CLASS H) \$2,000 added 2m 5f

- 15 declared BETTING: 8-11 Cookean Lady, 9-2 Hers Prince, 13-2 Junit A King, 10-1
Delametre, 12-1 Admission, Royal Benter, 16-1 Jack The TD, 33-1 others

4.50 STANLEY RACING NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,000 added 2m 1f

- 13 declared - - 13 declared - - 13 declared - - 14 Cittern, 14-1 Dr. BETTING: 1-4 Baharrian Kopight, 7-1 Melhanison, 12-1 Cittern, 14-1 Dr. Bravious, 16-1 My Buster, Sandahar, 20-1 Roi De La Chesse, 25-1 Dr. Woodstick, Helm Wind, 33-1 others

3.00 WOODCOCK HANDICAP (CLASS C)

3.30 JAY HANDICAP (CLASS C) £10,000 added 5f

4.00 PHEASANT SELLING STAKES (CLASS G) £2,500 added 1m 100yds

4.30 SNIPE HANDICAP (CLASS D) £7,000 added 3YO 1m 1f 79yds

BETTRIG: 13-8 Santal, 7-4 Prince Achinigh, 9-4 Nette Rufine, 10-1 Landrius

of posts - if the weather is fine. Wigan, whose remaining allocation of 1,400 tickets was expected to be snapped up yesterday, are unhappy at leaving the situation in the lap of the gods. "We've asked the Rugby League to get involved."the Wigan chairman, Mike Nolan, said. "I don't fancy selling tick-

"Dewsbury have said it will be alright if the weather is fine but what if it rains? The match could be called off if spectators start tumbling down onto the pitch. It's like the dark ages. This is what

Super League is up against." Dewsbury had considered switching the tie to Huddersfield's McAlpine Stadium or bringing in extra seating but

were deterred by the cost McDermott said: "It's very difficult. Wigan asked us to switch it but it would have cost us a minimum of £5,000 to stage it at the McAlpine and we would have had to pay £10 plus VAT for each extra seat if we

brought in temporary seating. "We've also got to be fair to our spectators and our coach. Our pitch is very narrow compared to the McAlpine and that will be to our advantage."

Nemeth faces **Belarus** test

Basketball

By Richard Taylor

THE England coach, Laszlo Nemeth, will depend on key individuals producing outstanding performances in Minsk tonight, as England try to steer their European Championship challenge back on course against Belarus in the fourth game of their semi-final round group.

Nemeth's only preparation was a 96-81 defeat against Austria in Vienna on Monday. Steve Bucknall led England's scorers with 23 points, supported by 22 from John Amaechi.

ITOM JOHN Amaectu.

ENGLAND (v Belarus, Minsk, tonight):
Amaechi (Sheffield). Austin (London Towers). Bakur (Manchester). Buckmati (rakis,
Gresce). Cheung (Ther, Germany). Duriktey
(Besancon, France). Hestam (Brimingham).
Herriman (Curregnon, Belgium). Huggins
Antwerp. Belgium). McChiney (Sheffield).
Scantiebury (Newcastle). Winyta (Derby).

TODAY'S

NUMBER

17.35

tendances enjoyed by greyhound racing last year, the sport's biggest improvement in a decade. In the same period. turnover on the Tote was £73m on track and £1.3bn at the tracks.

The percentage rise in at-

Folkestone + + 1	3.40 DES DOHERTY (80) HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS E) £2,900 added 2m 6f 110yds Penalty Value £2,427
HYPERION 2.10 Glowing Path 3.40 Country Tarquin 2.40 Head For Heaven 4.10 Tea Cee Kay 3.10 Native Player 4.40 Designer Lines GOING: Good (Good to Firm in places). Right-hand, undusting course with a run-in of one furlong. Course is 6m W of flown off A20. Westenhanger stathon (service from London, Charing Cross) adjoins course. ADMISSION: 100 (under-185 free). CAR PARK: Picruc Park (4 per car. £4 per occupant, remainder Free. LEADING TRAINERS: J Gifford 17-75 (227%). D Grissell 11-68 (162%). N Henderson B-28 (208%). R Rowe 7-63 (11%). M Pipe 6-36 (167%). M J Roberts 4-12 (333%). LEADING JOCKEYS: M A Fitzgerald 10-48 (208%). R Dumwoody 10-55 (182%). N Williamson 8-7 (17%). A P McCoy 7-44 (159%). B Fenton 6-29 (20.7%). FAVOURITES: 105-252 (41.7%).	1 025205 JOMAL MAM (14) (D) (Mrs Barbara Marchant) R O'Sulivan 9 tr 10
BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Verde Luna (2.40). Brackenheath (3.0). Cheeky Charlie (3.40). Country Tarquin (3.40). Hanbitooh (4.40). Fighting Times (vscred) (4.40). Table Stanford Selling Hanbicap Hurble (Class G)	BETTING: 5-2 Millmount, 9-2 Country Tanquin, 6-1 Caracol, 7-1 Salaman, 9-1 Ainsi Soli II, 10-1 Jovid Man, Pathagh, 12-1 Hewthorne Gien, 14-1 Cheeky Chartie, 16-1 Copper Coll, Smuggler's Polint, 20-1 others 1997. Milmount 7 10 13 D Bridgwater 5-1 (1 McGovern) 8 ran
2-10 E2,000 acided 2m 1f 110yds Penalty Value £1,772 1 5401P HEVER GOLF DIAMOND (19) (BF) (Classic Syndicate) J R Best 5 t2 0.1. Cummins (5) B 2 053Un GLOWING PATH (8) (D) (P Schole) R Hodges 8 if it	FORM GUIDE MILLMOUNT is 4th higher than when caught by Pealings in a 16-runner conditional jock- sys' handicap at Ascot two weeks ago, but meets some exposed handicappers on a course which suits her - her two previous whis have been gained here over this distance. The Ascot form was nothing special, but the first four pulled 12 lengths clear and Mil- mount staye well. She unseated her rider at the first in the Windson handicap won by lvor's Flutter, but cannot be blamed for that because she was bumped by another horse. Fifth of 14 in that race was Jovial Man, who had previously run Smith Too to a neck- over 3m at Kempton. He runs here off a 4th higher mark and has top weight for his frou- ble. Carrecol is up 5th for his narrow defeat of Come On Penny over a shorter trip at Fortiwell and looks ruhrerable this time, because his two wirs last season resulted in a tilb elevation in the handicap. Country Tarquin, second to Manyjo at Plumpton, can reach the frame, while Petitaugh is held by Milmount on their running behind Tompeloo at Kemp- ton (3m), but putied too hard that day. Selection: MLLMOUNT
10 0000 MALMANESROR (29) (Cashbasts Record) G McCourt 8 106	4.10 TENTERDEN MAIDEN HUNTER CHASE (CLASS H)
77 P040R5 ALBERT THE LION (S) LI Nevile) J Nevile 6 10 0	1 0005-3 BATHWICK BOBBIE (P18) (Dr. J.R. J.Neylor) Mrs. S. Elphick. 11 12 8
FORM GUIDE BIGWIG is 9b lower than when beasen eight lengths into fifth by Snowy Petrel in a novose' handicap on good ground at Windsor in November. Seatons Mirror, has not shown much since a Fontwell second to Weather Wise (handicap non-seller) on his first run since coming from Ireland, while Heiver Golf Diamond was a big disappointment at Lingfield last time when pulled up before two our in the race won by The Executor from Mega Tid. Hever Golf Diamond had Mega Tid three and a half lengths back when taking a Market.	10 122-21 TEA CEE KAY (P16) (C O King) C King 6 12 8
Resen seller in November and possibly found the ground too testing at Lingfield. Mazi- rah can take a strong hold and has not shown his best form for a while, but he has a chance on his pre-Christines form last jumps season as well as a running-on fourth to Aril in a 12-funding handicap here last summer.	12-1 Polar Ans, 14-1 Red Rony, 16-1 Pearl Denie, Terragon, 20-1 Bethwick Bobble, 25-1 Torocap- pagh, 33-1 Royal Repect 1997. Trides: Lad 12 12 5 Mr P Hacking (3) 11-10 fev (M.J. Roberts) 10 ran FORM GUIDE
2.40 'GAY RECORD' CHALLENGE TROPHY HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS F) £3,250 added 2m Penalty Value £2,691 1 P23543 COURT MASTER (4) (D) (Mrs Timothy Lews) R Budder 10 11 10	ELMORE, lightly raced, has won first time out for the past two seasons and can repeat the feat today. He impressed when aconing at Higham on he first run last season, recording a good time in the process, but was beaten 11 lengths by Copper Thistle when joint-twounte for a similar event to this at Leicester next time and was pulled up on his fired start at Ascot. The last ground is in Elmone's favour and he can begin to make up for lost time. Tea Cee Key also goes well on tast ground and is in good form, following a Barbury Castle second to Precarlum (winner again since) tast month with victory at Twe-seldown. He finished three lengths in front of Copper Thistle (getting 7fb) at Towcester last season, which gives him an edge over Elmore, but the selection is expected to prove that Leicester running wrong. Sound Statement made a winning return to pointing at Cottenham this month and rates best of the others. Spanking Blates econed in an open at Higham on his return from a langthy ley-off after injury this month and can again go well, but Polar Ans won only a poor race at Charnej last time, while this will be much tougher than the meaden that Rafinicheck landed at Cottenham. Selection: ELMORE
Minurum weight; 10st. True handicap weight: (preed Surge Sit 12th BETTING: 2-1 Gratiom), 7-2 Frank Knows, 5-1 Court Meeter, 5-1 Head For Heaven, 9-1 Wystle Court. BETTING: 2-1 Gratiom, 7-2 Frank Knows, 5-1 Court Meeter, 5-1 Head For Heaven, 9-1 Wystle Court.	4.40 DAVID BENGE NOVICE HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS F) 2.400 added 2m 1f 110yds Penalty Value £2,136 4.40 BARTON SCAMP (91) Mas 8 W Palmer) 0 Williams 8 11 10
10-1 snewtood Lad 6 if 2 B Fertion 15-8 fav (D Gressil) 7 ran FORM GUIDE 997. Buckland Lad 6 if 2 B Fertion 15-8 fav (D Gressil) 7 ran FORM GUIDE GRATOMI heid an eligit-length lead and was looking an assured winner when he fell two out at Lingflield in December and has since made amends at Hereford – beating Winnow three lengths. Gratoms was turning in a much improved display when second to Winnow three lengths. Gratoms was turning in a much improved display when second to Wir Strong Gale (two wins since) at Lucidow three outings back and, although a 7th penal-life rougher, this looks enother soft race. Sharerood Boy could go close with y makes life rougher, this looks enother soft race. Sharerood Boy could go close with y makes life rougher, this looks enother soft race. Sharerood Boy could go close with a clear round, but his lumping is a cause for concern. Another with jumping problems is a clear round, but his lumping is a cause for concern. Another with jumping problems is a clear round, but his lumping is a cause for concern. Another with jumping problems is a clear round, but his lumping is a cause for concern. Another with jumping problems is a clear round, but his lumping is a cause for concern. Another with jumping problems is a clear round, but his lumping large another with jumping problems is a clear round, but his lumping large another with jumping problems is a clear round. Boy could go close with y makes life and large another with jumping problems is a clear round. Boy could go close with y makes life and large another with jumping problems is a clear round. Boy could go close with y makes life another with jumping problems is a clear round. Boy could go close with y makes life another with jumping problems is a clear round. Boy could go close with y makes life another with jumping problems is a clear round. Boy could go close with y makes life another with jumping problems is a close another with jumping problems is a close another with jumping problems is a close another with jumping problems	2 603-4 DAYDREAMER (USA) (30) (Ahr. Ris. Bales) 6 L Moore 5 11 7

ersino 3 A Turnel 7 10 9	Congression that the control of the
row) Mrs A Woodrow 15 10 8 J A McCarthy	et Higham on his return from a langthy lay-off after injury this month and can again go
AND WES Y MODOTOR IS NOT IN WHICH WAS	well, but Polar Ana won only a poor race at Channg last time, while this will be much
6 10 6	tougher than the maden that Ratincheck landed at Cottenham. Selection: ELMORE
COS & D.O	
	DAVID BENGE NOVICE HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS F)
e 9st 12th	4.40 DAYID BENGE NOVICE HANDICAP MUNULE (CLASS F) 22.400 added 2m 1f 110vds Penalty Value \$2,136
s. 8-1 Head For Heaven, 9-1 Mystic Court.	
ichu, 16-1 Pegmarine, 33-1 Upward Surge	1 DA-UPF BARTON SCAMP (91) (Mes B W Palmer) D Williams 6 11 10
187	2 603-4 DAYOREAMER (USA) (30) (Mrs Rigs Bales) G L Moore 5 11 7
	3 5854 ELA/TE-MOU (72) (Hatfield Limited) S Dow 5 11 4
king an assured winner when he fell	4 404-56 HAMBITOOH (USA) (108) (Fred Cotton) Mrs A Perten 5 ft 3C Maude B
made amends at Hereford - beating	The second state and second se
ch improved display when second to	
tings back and, although a 7th penal-	6 -POPP1 FLINNY GENE (FR) (B) (D) (Mrs L C Taylor) Mrs L Taylor 5 11 1 (7ex)
Sherwood Boy could go close with	7 4/3050 DARK ROMANCE (19) (A A Goldson) Miss Z Devison 9 10 71
m. Another with jumping problems is	8 006 DESIGNER LINES (65) (R A Shaw) E L James 5 10 7
dicap hurdie at Towcester in Novem-	9 DECT FIGHTING TIMES (6) (D) (Lifer Grees Ltd) C Smith 8 10 7 (7ex)V Slettery V
no uncoching in the Lindbeld SVSA(In	10 D-PP RIVER MONARCH (83) (B J Whoe) R Rowe 7 10 3 A Garriey (7)
er has won once from 32 stains and	The second and ALP Transp. In Clare 2 and M. C. Carlotte Co.
ong event. Selection: GRATOM	17 6790 SANWOOD (19) (M H PASCAR) J BROOKE 5 103
	E 10-07 BROWNER (219 M C 1 to Carry) Do Car
(CLASS E) £2,900 added	13 0-5P63 LINE STREET BLUES (12) (The Blues Partnershot) T Keddy 7 10 2
£2,732	14 POD LEAD STORY (SS) (M C Banks) M Bants 5 10 1
	15 2250P MOONLIGHT ESCAPADE (12) (D) (P Sede) R Hodges 7 10 0P Holley
sel 7 11 10	16 OSFS/S COMPUTERAID LADY (118) (M O'Bren) R Curts 8 10 0
HD49 b 11 10 It Doubles	17 JOSEP ERMYNS PET (28) (J Danieta) D Morris 7 10 0
D Gallagher	18 000-P0 JUSTJIM (61) (VY Gethin) T Keddy 6 10 0
S Dow 5 11 4 JR Kavanagh	19 OPP-6 PRUSSIAN EAGLE (146) (Quicksiver Racing Partnership) K Bailey 6 10 0
4PHide	- 19 deciared -
N Chance 6 11 4 Mr S Dutack (5)	Montrum weight: 10st. True transficap weights: Moorlight Escapade 9st 12th, Computersati Lady 9st 10th,
4T Kent	BUTTERS PROFILE THE STREET WORKS, MAKE BUT LECONOM OF TALL, OUT PROFILE TO THE TALL THE PROFILE TO THE PROFILE FOR THE PROFILE
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13 Mr R Water (3) ang) D Williams 4 10 7 R Massey (3)	BETTING: 11-2 Fighting Times, 13-2 Furnry Genie, 7-1 Gold Lance, 8-1 Dark Romence, 9-1 Els- Yie-Mou, Hanbitooh, 10-1 Daydreamer, 12-1 Lime Street Blues, 14-1 Barton Scamp, 18-1 Designer
13 Mir R Waldey (3) ang) D Williams 4 10 7	BETTING: 11-2 Fighting Times, 13-2 Funny Genie, 7-1 Gold Lance, 6-1 Dark Romence, 9-1 Ela- Yle-Nicu, Hambitoch, 10-1 Daydreamer, 12-1 Lime Street Bitses, 14-1 Berton Scamp, 16-1 Designer Lines, 20-1 others
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15 Mir R Waldey (3) ang) D Williams 4 10 7	BETTING: 11-2 Fighting Times, 13-2 Funny Genle, 7-1 Gold Lance, 6-1 Dark Romance, 9-1 Ela- Yie-Mou, Harbitoch, 10-1 Daydreamer, 12-1 Lime Street Bitues, 14-1 Berion Scamp, 16-1 Designer Lines, 20-1 others 1997. Museum 6 11 1 X Alzpuru (7) 8-1 (P Winkworth) 12 ran FORME GUIDE
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13	BETTING: 11-2 Fighting Times, 13-2 Funny Ganle, 7-1 Gold Larnos, 6-1 Dark Romance, 5-1 Ela- Yle-Mou, Harbitoch, 10-1 Daydreamer, 12-1 Lines Street Blues, 14-1 Berton Scamp, 16-1 Designer Lines, 20-1 others 1997. Museum 6 11 1 X Aizpuru (7) 8-1 (P Winkworth) 12 ran FORM GUIDE Hambitoch, who began life with Ed Dunlop, has few miles on the clock, but does look
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S	BETTING: 11-2 Fighting Times, 13-2 Funny Genie, 7-1 Gold Lamos, 6-1 Dark Romence, 9-1 Ela- Yie-Nicu, Harshitoch, 10-1 Daycheamer, 12-1 Lime Street Bitses, 14-1 Berton Scamp, 16-1 Designer Lines, 20-1 others 1997. Museum 6 til 1 X Alzpuru (7) 8-1 (P Winkworth) 12 ren FORM GUIDE Harshitoch, who began life with Ed Dunlop, has few miles on the clock, but does look slow. Still, there is sure to be a decent pace on and Harshitoch is the type to go well fresh. He has dropped a few pounds end should figure. FUNNY GENIE had acquired a sequence of uninspiring form figures before making most and coming home four lengths clear of Dovetto in a Hereford handicap nine days ago, but had previously rur well for a loop way in a Doncastar times-miler won by Unskinkelbs Boxer. Cornections must have
IS	BETTING: 11-2 Fighting Times, 13-2 Funny Genie, 7-1 Gold Larnos, 6-1 Dark Romence, 9-1 Ela- Yie-Mou, Harshitoch, 10-1 Daycheamer, 12-1 Lime Street Bitses, 14-1 Berton Scamp, 16-1 Designer Lines, 20-1 others 1997. Museum 6 til 1 X Alzpuru (7) 8-1 (P Winknorth) 12 ran FORM GUIDE Harshitoch, who began life with Ed Dunkop, has few miles on the clock, but does look slow. Still, there is sure to be a decent pace on and Harshitoch is the type to go well fresh. He has dropped a few pounds and should figure, FUNNY GENIE had acquired a sequence of uninsphring form figures before making most and coming home four lengths clear of Dovetto in a Hereford handicap nine days ago, but had previously run well for a long way in a Doncaster three-miler won by Unskinkable Boxer. Connections must have best some faith in Furny Genie to run him in a Grade Two novices' hurdie at Ascut be-
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13	BETTING: 11-2 Fighting Times, 13-2 Funny Genie, 7-1 Gold Lamos, 6-1 Dark Romence, 9-1 Ela- Yle-Nicu, Harbitoch, 10-1 Daycheamer, 12-1 Lime Street Blues, 14-1 Berton Scamp, 16-1 Designer Limes, 20-1 others 997. Museum 6 til 1 X Alzpuru (7) 8-1 (P Winkworth) 12 ran FORM GLIDE Harbitoch, who began life with Ed Dunlop, has few miles on the clock, but does look slow. Still, there is sure to be a decent pace on and Harbitoch is the type to go well fresh. He has dropped a few pounds and should figure, FUNNY GENIE had acquired a sequence of uninspiring form figures before making most and coming home four lengths clear of Dovetto in a Hereford handicap nine days ago, but had praviously rur well for a long way in a Doncaster three-miler won by Unakinkable Boxer. Comrections must have had some faith in Furny Genie to run him in a Grade Two novices' hurdle at Ascot be- tore Christmas, so now that he has clicked once, he might do so again. Dark Romanca
13	BETTING: 11-2 Fighting Times, 13-2 Funny Genie, 7-1 Gold Lance, 8-1 Dark Romence, 9-1 Ein- Yie-Mou, Hasbitoch, 19-1 Daydreamer, 12-1 Lime Street Bitses, 14-1 Berion Scamp, 16-1 Designer Lines, 20-1 others 1997. Museum 6 11 1 X Aizpuru (7) 8-1 (P. Winkworth) 12 ran FORME GUIDE Hambitochs, who began life with Ed Dunlop, has few miles on the clock, but does took slow. Still, there is sure to be a decent pace on and Hambitoch is the type to go well fresh. He has dropped a few pounds and should figure, FUNNY GENIE had acquired a sequence of unirspiring form figures before making most and coming froms four lengths clear of Dovestro in a Herestord handicap nine days ago, but had praviously run well for a long way in a Doncaster times-miler won by Unakhiteble Boser. Comrections must have had some faith in Furny Genie to our him in a Grade two novices' hundle at Ascot be- tone Christmas, so now that he has clicked once, he might do so again. Dark Romence has shown enough to suggest she is worth noting, while Ela-Yie-Mou can do better than most and Floriting Times has a chance in this better race after toking a Taunton selec.
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3.10 LYMPNE NOVICE HURDLE 2m 6f 110yds Penalty Value 5 INDEPENDENT 7. 2. Lucy Wellers 17-4 tex. 3 Frose 1977. 10-1 17 ran. 2, 114. (Mrs. M Reveley). Total: E550; E200, E270, E430. DF: E1480. CSF: E732. Trio: £7730 3-sickpot: Not wor; £23,008,95 carried forward to Folkestone today. Places 9: £389,20. Place 5: £2440. LINGFIELD LIN | Description | Text | to Foliastone 440 today. 2.30: 1. GRANGE COURT (A P McCoyl 3-1

Referee's ban may result in more cards

Football Correspondent

THE referee, it seems, is no longer always right even when he is wrong. This appears to be the philosophy of the FA and the Premier League following the decision to suspend Dermot Gallagher for a poor performance. He is one of eight English referees on the list of Fifa, the sport's world governing body.

Those managers who have led this season's heavy criticism of referees may feel vindicated, but the likely consequence is an increase in yellow and red cards as referees take a harder line.

is a warning to us all. I'm shell- to have failed to control the by a series of running feuds. shocked and saddened." However, David Elleray, the Premier League referees' spokesman, said: "We agreed a number of luca Vialli as he advanced on years ago this action could be taken in extreme circumstances senal, ended 2-0. when an overall performance pected level."

suspension, three seasons ago, [Bould] has to be sent off, there but it was kept so quiet even Durkin did not know of it. This the whole game. You are sent off time the impact is likely to go anywhere in the world for a foul beyond the referee concerned.

Gallagher, who has been to make his own game." suspended for one match, was given a low mark by the asses- and six other players, but could Paul Durkin, England's sor at the Arsenal-Chelsea easily have issued twice as many

game adequately, highlighted by his failure to send off Steve Bould for hauling down Giangoal. The match, then 1-0 to Ar-

In what transpired to be his was judged to fall below the exmanager Ruud Gullit said: "Vial-There has been one previous li was going straight for goal. He was no other option. It changed like that but the referee wanted

Gallagher did book Bould, World Cup referee, said: "This game of 8 February. He was felt cautions in a nasty match scarred Premier League from now on."

taken off Saturday's Blackburn-Leicester match for which he would have received £375.

One referee, who did not wish to be quoted, said yesterday: "This will harden opinion. refuse the benefit of the doubt to the offender." Gallagher is most lenient referees, having issued 37 yellow and two red cards in 13 games this season.

Durkin said he was "gobsmacked" by the move, adding: "We will all have to take heed if this is to be the policy of the

The Banbury official, who timing, six years into the found-refereed at Euro 96, has been ing of the Premiership, adding: "It is not the first time a player could have been sent off and wasn't. I wonder if it because of pressure from managers."

Managers have been so critical of referees this season John In future we are more likely to Barnwell, the chief executive of the League Managers Association, felt compelled to remind one of the Premier League's his members in this month's yet the poor leadership of many LMA newsletter that "an outburst against a referee changes nothing but does damage seriously the image of the game."

Gallagher will be replaced at Ewood Park by Neale Barry who, ironically, was also being criticised the weekend of Gal-

manager, George Graham, said: "The referee had a bad game. The bookings were crazy. The referees are like robots. You get a booking for just kick-

ing the ball away." This underlines the problem. It is more than five years since that became a bookable offence managers, the indiscipline of players, and inconsistency of referees means players still kick Remi Harrel, who was bitterly the ball away and are still surprised to be cautioned.

The suspension follows the world trend. An African referee was last week dropped from Cup tie with Atletico Madrid.

He expressed surprise at the lagher's below-par display. He the World Cup list after a subbooked seven players at Filbert standard performance in the Street, five from Leeds, whose African Nations' Cup while Uefa, the governing body of European football, has sacked two referees from its list this season. The Hungarian Sandor Puhl missed the controversial Paul Bosvelt tackle on Denis Irwin in Manchester United's Champions' League match with Feyenoord. He has since been dropped by Uefa and left off the World

Cup list. The other was the Frenchman criticised by Martin O'Neill after bizarrely sending off Garry Parker for taking a free-kick too quickly in Leicester's Uefa



Gailagher: Criticised for not sending off Steve Bould

Korda and Kucera add to the turmoil and tension

Tennis

By John Roberts

IT MIGHT not rival the Millennium Dome, not to mention the local power station, but a temporary arena complex in Battersea Park is causing quite a stir in the tennis world this week. This is not solely because those bold Brits Greg Rusedksi and Tim Henman are in action, but also because a certain Slovakian has brought turmoil to the top level of the men's game.

Karol Kucera has much to answer for, not least for causing nerves to jangle as Petr Ko-Rusedski - jostle for the chance to replace Pete Sampras as the world No 1. Kucera created the tension by defeating Sampras in the quarter-finals of the Australian Open last month. Oh yes, and Kucera was the chap who put Henman on edge by beating him in the final of the Sydney tournament, setting him on a roll of five consecutive defeats.

In Antwerp last week, Korda was on course to become only the 14th world No 1 since the ATP rankings began in 1973. The Czech left-hander needed to win the European Community Championship. Who did he meet in the quarter-finals? Kucera, who beat him in three sets. Rusedski then eliminated Kucera in the semi-finals and went on to win the title, raising his world ranking to No 5.

Mind you, Korda did beat Kucera in the semi-finals of the Australian Open, going on to win his first Gland Slam title at rda, Pat Rafter - and yes, even the age of 30, a triumph which put him at Sampras's shoulder at No 2 in the world.

Kucera, ranked No 13, advanced to the second round of the Guardian Direct Cup yesterday here, saving a match point in a second set tie-break before overcoming the Frenchman

had a difficult afternoon yesterday, failing to convert two match at 6-5 in the second set - a net cord denied him the second-and being pushed to a third set before winning, 7-6, 6-7, 6-4.

Although favourably impressed with the temporary arena. Korda was not at all pleased with the net-cord machine. "I had three lets in a row, 20 centimetres above the net," he complained. "That could have cost me the match. I'd rather have a human error."

Noted for his acrobatic celself to a solitary cartwheel on this occasion - "I was too close to the net to do more" - before adjourning to the interview room, where he chuckled when questioned about his prospects of becoming No 1.

"It's only in the media." Ko-

Korda, drawn to meet the Slo- it. If it happens, great, but I have vakian in the third round, also no problems. Just leave me to play my tennis and see what happens. I didn't have time to points on David Prinosil's serve enjoy the momentum of fulfilling my dream of winning a Grand Slam. I just want to give the same 100 per cent performance as I did in Doha and Australia. If I win, OK, if I lose, I have given my best."

Korda's balanced sense of perspective was heightened, so to speak, after his victory in Doha last month, when he was introduced to Manute Bol, a 7ft 7in Sudanese basketball player who ranks as the world's second tallest man. "And I used to think ebrations, Korda restricted him- I was pretty tall," Korda, who is 6ft 3in, said, shaking his head.

A dedicated family man. Korda tends to count the hours when parted from his wife, Regina, and five-year-old daughter, Jessica, who are currently at their home in Florida. Regina is expecting a second Guillaume Raoux, 6-7, 7-6, 6-4. rda said. "I'm very quiet about child in July, so Korda is anticipating a lonely Wimbledon.

Rusedski, who is due to play his first round match tonight against Germany's Marc-Kevin Goellner, needs to win both the title here and also next week's tournament in Rotterdam if he is to have a chance to overtake

"I'm not thinking particularly about getting to No 1," he said. thinking about No 1."

Yevgeny Kafelnikov, the ously things have got to be Russian No 3 seed, had a fairly It is the first time that Britain sorted out. The bottom line is swift and reasonably comfortable have qualified for the World we have a very important tie in start to the tournament, defeatfive weeks' time. My job is to get ing Thomas Johansson, of Sweden, 6-3, 6-2 in advancing to a cording to world rankings. Not job, and its better to have a hap-second-round match against the Czech Daniel Vacek.

The seven-month dry spell in

Guyana, which normally has 90

inches of rain a year, means that

both sides will consider playing

two spinners. The pitch, de-

scribed as dry by local experts,

is expected to provide turn

Croft and Phil Tufnell, took 17

of the 20 Guyana wickets to fall

in the drawn game at Everest and

Neil McGarrett, the Guyanese

WEST INDIES SQUAD (v England, Fourth Test Bourds, Guyans, starts Friday): S

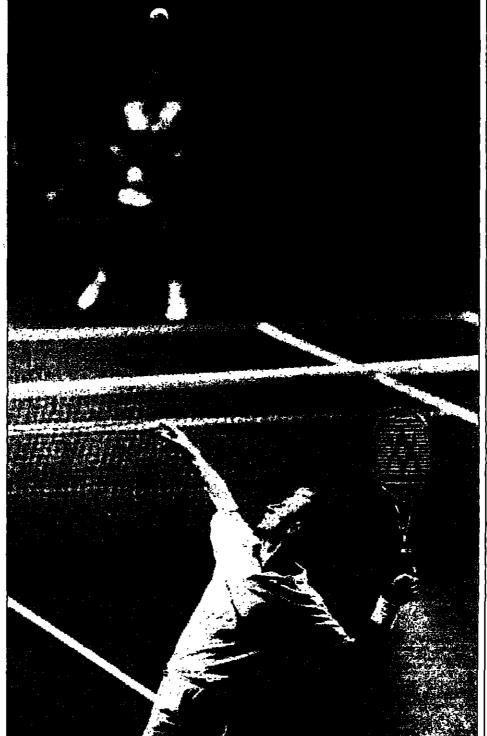
purde, Guyane, starts Fridey): bell, S.C. Williams, B.C. Lera", C. S. Chanderpaul, J.C. Adems, R. I.

left-arm spinner, took eight.

England's spinners. Robert

pe in just 30 overs.

from the start.



Petr Korda serves in his defeat of Thomas Johansson yesterday Photograph: David Ashdown

DAVID LLOYD, Britain's Group play off in September. the World Team Championship Another team competition, is used by many players to help

Lloyd must reconcile Henman and Rusedski

Davis Cup captain, will endeavour to bring a smile back to the often quoted "friendly rivalry" between Greg Rusedski and Tim Henman, which has become rather strained in recent weeks, writes John Roberts.

Guardian Direct Cup in Battersea Park this week, emphasising the importance of the team ethic to the nation's cause. Rusedski and Henman are due to join forces in Newcastle in the first week of April for a Davis Cup tie against Ukraine, the winners qualifying for a World

Cricket

Ted Corbett

reports from Georgetown

The West Indies selectors yes-

terday dispelled rumours they

were about to drop their vice-

captain Carl Hooper, including.

him in the 13-man squad for the

fourth Test against England

which starts at Bourda on Friday.

comment on reports that Hoop-

cr, whose unbeaten 94 set them

on the way to victory in the sec-

ond Test in Port of Spain, had

disobeyed instructions to play in

the three-day match between

Guyana and England which

However, they made no

Championship in Düsseldorf

in May, has triggered the dif- that there is no rule stipulating ferences between the top two that players have to like each Britons. Rusedski has expressed other, is keen to improve the disappointment at Henman's current level of communication. I want to improve and get to No Lloyd intends to speak to decision to forego the event, between Rusedski and Henman. 3 first. Then you have to be in both players during the which takes place on clay courts "The way to resolve any the position Korda's in to start during the week leading up to the French Open in Paris, without consulting him first.

Team Championship, the eight nations for which are invited ac-

for Guyana, although he is cap-

before for failing to play in

matches and once sat out a

Hong Kong sixes competition,

The selectors did make two

changes yesterday, bringing in

leg-spinner Dinanath Ramnar-

ine from Trinidad for the fast

bowler Franklyn Rose and the

Barbados batsman Roland

Holder in place of the medium

has played in eight Tests and has

The recalled Holder, who

pacer Kenneth Benjamin.

although he was captain.

Hooper has been disciplined

W Indies call up leg spinner Ramnarine

given no reason for not playing the recent 3-0 Test humiliation

an average of 29.18 with a top land captain, Michael Atherton,

in Pakistan.

the ATP Tour World Team prepare for the French Open. Lloyd, while acknowledging

problems is to sit down and talk

things out," Lloyd said. "Obvieveryone back together for that as important as its title implies, py team than an unhappy one."

ended on Monday. Hooper has score of 91, was dropped after Alec Stewart and Graham Thor-

Ramnarine, 22, played in a

one-day international against Sti

Lanka last June after taking 38

wickets at an average of 22.31

in 10 Red Stripe games last sea-

the best of the bunch of young

spinners now emerging from the

shadows cast by the great fast

the two-day warm-up game

ahead of the back-to-back Tests

in Trinidad, he took 5 for 72 in-

cluding the wickets of the Eng-

Bowling against England in

bowlers of the recent past.

Ramnarine is considered

Montgomerie shapes up

Golf

Andy Farrell reports from Dubai

For a man who has already won \$1m (£600,000) in 1998, Colin Montgomerie's personal highlight of the year so far is losing 10 pounds of the fleshy variety. The Scot's victory in the Andersen Consulting World Championship has been consigned to the history books. "It was classed as part of 1997 for money and rankings, so it doesn't feel like I've done anything this year

yet," Montgomeric said. Resembling more Cheshire cat than a fat one,

Montgomerie is in confident mood as he begins his season proper tomorrow in the Dubai Desert Classic. Until Sunday, he had not hit a shot with his new clubs but has instead spent the

last six weeks in the gym. In terms of success, Monty is as hungry as ever. "There is one reason why I have won the Order of Merit for five years in a row and it is because I am as

Two years ago, Montgomerie took a similar break and opened his account with a victory here on the Emirates course. A similar start now would be timely - while the Eu-

ropean Tour has been swinging

ambitious as I am," he said.

through Asia. Australia and South Africa, Ernie Els has established a £236,020 lead over Scot at the top of the money list.

Els and Greg Norman head what is another star-studded field for the golf in the Gulf. But despite Kofi Annan already producing a significant result in the region this week, the American Tom Lehman withdrew at the last minute, something Mont-

gomerie never considered. "We are over 850 miles from Baghdad," he said, "If there was something on in the south of France, you wouldn't move house to the north of Scotland. would you? This is as safe a place as you'd ever want to be."

30 Barnet v Strewsbury _ 31 Brighton v Chestor... 32 Cambridge v Mansfield 33 Darkerton v Seets 1

33 Darington v Rochdale 34 Hertiepool v Doncaste

Carnival gives Cayard warm welcome

Sailing

Stuart Alexander reports from São Sebastião

THE dream campaign that is Paul Cayard's first Whithread Round the World Race entered the realms of the fantastic as he brought EF Language into the winner's enclosure here in Brazil at the end of the fifth leg from Auckland yesterday.

Never in 25 years of sailing in major events around the world has the Californian been given the sort of frenzied and exuberant welcome as that cooked up by a town in the grip of carnival. A 50-strong group of colourfully decorated samba dancers were on a dockside created from the deck of a car ferry, swaying and stamping to the insistent beat of a dozen drum-

Although well past midnight, thousands had left the main streets to cheer, with accompanying fire crackers, a sporting hero far removed from their normal footballing idols. It was a heliuva party.

Whether the fans really knew what they were applauding, or even who, the significance was not lost on a crew struggling to take it all in. "It's fantastic," said the watch leader, Magnus Olsson. "It's almost too

For crew member Kimo Worthington, the first 17 days had provided "the best sailing of my life". No problems with frostbitten hands this time, just surge after surge of high-speed excitement and the only nerves were for their women counterparts on EF Education when their mast came down.

"You know if you fall off the edge it is going to be pretty bad, but we had hardly any down time and the only serious breakage was a spinnaker pole. We

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ing or year.

Sept May

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A La STEEL STREET A Part 70.27 C COLSTAND to have the

carry a spare," he said. Even when they were down the order at the beginning of the stage there were no real concerns. "We were where we wanted to be, it all fitted together, and then we started picking people off ahead of us and after a couple of days we

were leading." he added. Cayard, who flies to San Francisco and the likelihood of a major cash announcement for his America's Cup campaign, is now % points clear of his nearest rival. That almost equates to a complete leg, so he can afford a major setback and still be in the running.

Still on the water, Dee Smith was nursing a crack in the mast of third-placed Chessie Racing while still hunting down Roy Heiner, just 16 miles ahead of him in Brunel Sunergy.

The trio of Gunnar Krantz's Swedish Match, Grant Dalton's Merit Cup and Paul Standbridge's Toshiba were resigned to racing for fourth place as the two boats ahead of them continued to profit from having sailed east round the Falkland Islands. The gamble of going further west by Knut Frostad seemed to have failed in an Innovation Kvaerner also with a crack in the mast.

Back in the UK, the Silk Cut skipper, Lawrie Smith, was investigating the possibility of the rules allowing him to claim points for the leg, even though the boat was motor-sailing here to have a new mast and hull repairs. In Ushuaia, the EF shore team was preparing to fit the new mast, flown to the allwomen team on EF Education. WOMEN team on EF Education.
Whiteread Round the World Race
Fith leg (Auckland to Sie Sebastisio, Brazil:
1 EF Language (Swe) 22 days 1 fr shin 23
sec (185pt), lotal 9071; 2 Brunel Surrepy
(Neth) 428 miles to trials; 3 Chesse Racing (US) +182; 4 Swedish Match (Swe)
+27; 5 Merit Cup (Monaco) +18; 6 Tostiba (US) +198; 7 Innovation (Krasmer (No)
+228; 8 Sik Car (GB) +973; 9 EF Education (Swe) +1743

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Today's fixtures

Football (7.30 unless stater!)

(7.30 Utiless steeru)
FA CUP FIFTH-ROUND REPLAYS
Bernsley v Manchester Utd (7.45) Bernsley v Manchester Utd (7.45) Blackburn v West Ham (7.45) Crystel Palace v Arsensi (7.45) Wolves v Wimbledon (7.45)

NATIONWIDE FOOTBALL LEAGUE FIRST DIVISION

SECOND DIVISION Milwell v Wetford (7.45)

BELL'S SCOTTISH LEAGUE NOTWELL V St J

Falkirk v Ayr Partick Thistie v Duode SECOND DIVISION

THIRD DIVISION ISTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE First Division: Sheppey Utd v Cornthan. UNIVET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE UNIBOND LEAGUE CUP Fourth RYMAN LEAGUE First Divisi

SCREWFIX DIRECT LEAGUE Pred Division: Chippenham v Tiverton. ARNOTT INSURANCE NORTHERN
LEAGUE First Division: Bedington Terriers v Shilton; Durham City v Crook.
League Cup third round: Evenwood v
West Auckland; Hebburn v RTM Newcastle; Penrith v Stockton.

PRESS & JOURNAL HIGHLAND LEAGUE: Fort William v Bigin City. BASS IRISH CUP Sixth-round replay: Ands v Armagh City (215) (at Armagh City 273)

FC).
PONTINS LEAGUE Premier Division:
Aston Ville v Presion North End (20): Transmere Rovers v Eventon (70): First Division: Grimsby Town v Manchester City (70): West Bromwich Albion v Port Valle (20) fat Halesowen Town FC): Huddersfield Town v Sunderland (70). Second Division: Blackpool v Wrischam (70); Bradford City v Shrewsbury Town (70); Cardist United v Rotherham (70) at Gretna FC); Burnley v Rochdale (7:5). Third Division: Scarborough v Chesterfield (70).

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION
First Division: Swindon Town v Brighton
(755): Wimbledon v Ipswich Town 20):
Norwich v Southampton: Luton Town v
Cusen's Park Rangers (20); Tottonham v
West Ham United (20). Rugby Union

CLUB MATCH: Cambridge University Penguins (7:15).

Weekend fixtures and pools forecast Third Division

FA Carling Premiership 1 Aston Villa v Liverpool 2 Bernsley v Wimbledon 3 Blackburn v Leicester 4 Crystal Palace v Coventry..... 5 Derby v Sheffield Wednesday Leeds v Southampton Also playing: (not on coup v Manchester United

Nationwide Football League First Division 8 Bury v Swindon 9 Chariton v Hudderst 10 Craws v Reading ...

11 Manchester City v West Brom 12 Norwich v OPR 13 Oxford v Stockport 15 Shafiled Utd v Baratind City 1 16 Sunderland v Ipswich 1 17 Wolves v Brinsingham X Playing Sundery Nottingham Forcest v Mid-diesbrough, Port Vale v Stoke.

Second Division 20 Brentford v York 21 Breatol City v Southend 22 Carlisle v Burnley 23 Northampton v Grimsby 24 Oldhern v Milwali
25 Plymouth v Lufon
25 Plymouth v Lufon
25 Wattord v Bristol Rovers
27 Wigen v Chesterfield
28 Wredham v Wolsel

36 Rotherham v Leyton Orient 37 Scarborough v Hull . 38 Scunthorpe v Cardiff 39 Swenses v Exeter Also playing (not on coupons): Torquey Lincoln Pleying Friday: Coichester v Peterborough Bell's Scottish League Premier Division 40 Abendeen v Kilmerne 42 Hibernian v Celuc 43 Rangers v Hearts 44 St Johnstone v Dundes Utd . First Division 45 Airdne v Falkirk 46 Ayr v Partick ... 47 Dundee v St Mirren

Five aways: Liverpool, Fullram, Mansfield Callic, Morton

لمكذا من ألاصل

Real Betis entertain

By Bill Pierce

Blues referee

CHELSEA have asked Uefa.

the governing body of European football, to investigate a report that the Swedish referee and linesmen who will take charge of their European Cup-Winners Cup quarter-final against Real

Betis next week, were guests of the Spanish club at their match

appointed assistants for the Cup-Winners Cup first leg tie in

Seville next Thursday are said

to have watched the game from

policy that clubs should have no

contact with any officials ap-

pointed to their European

games until the day before the

match - a policy designed to

eliminate any possibility or

A Chelsea spokesperson

A Uefa spokeswoman said:

"We shall try to find out about

this and if it is correct we will

first of all ask Real Betis for an

who will come to Stamford

tie on March 19 - could face

a heavy sanction even if Sun-

dell's appearance at the Español

And the Blues may even ask

game was entirely innocent.

In fact, the Spanish club ~

said today: "We have asked

Uefa to look into the matter."

suggestion of bribery.

explanation."

And that is against Ucfa's

the Betis directors' box.

against Español on Sunday. Leif Sundell and his two



arnival gives ayard warm ielcome

Players' lack of passion hurt Little

At one stage Aston Villa seemed to be on course for a championship challenge. But, as Glenn Moore explains, something was amiss

FOR ONCE a game of Villa Park Cluedo may not have ended with just Deadly Doug, in the Boardroom, holding a smoking gun. Instead, the guilty cards could also reveal Stan Collymore and Savo Milosevic, in the dressing-room, with a sawn-off shotgun. Why that weapon? Anything more precise and they would have missed.

While the Aston Villa chairman, Doug Ellis, may prove to have been ultimately responsible for Brian Little's resignation as manager, certain players appear to bear more than their usual burden of guilt. One is Milosevic, Bought on the evidence of a video, he has only just returned to the team after being suspended for spitting at fans. He only came back to maintain his World Cup chances and is thought to be looking forward to next summer when his contract expires and he can ne-

gotiate a post-Bosman payday. As for Collymore, this is what Marcus Gayle, the Wimbledon striker said after playing against him on Saturday: "Non-League players would give everything for his shirt and play in the Premiership for nothing. Stan didn't want to know, yet he earns all this money. It's not about money though,

it's about hunger and Stan just hasn't got it any more."

Even these two may bear the thumbprint of Ellis's tinkering. The chairman is believed to bave been an enthusiastic supporter of the signings of Collymore and Milosevic, but, despite a recent share issue, he has been unable to produce the funds required to strengthen the team further.

Little must inevitably take a measure of responsibility for Villa's current plight. They may be in the last eight of the Uefa Cup but they have lost four of their last five Premiership matches and are perilously close to the relegation zone. In recent weeks, their play has been notable for its lack of passion and some of the team selections have provoked surprise.

After a bright start with the purchases of players like Mark Draper and Gareth Southgate, Little's dealings in the transfer market have been flawed. As well as spending £11m on Collymore and Milosevic, he wasted £4m on Sasa Curcic and has harely played Julian Joachim. In addition, young players have not come through as hoped.

After saving Villa from relegation when he replaced Ron Atkinson in November 1994,



Little took the club to fourth ters, that he was Ellis's signing, and fifth in the Premiership and also won the Coca-Cola Cup.

Little played three at the back and two up, a policy worked out with players on long walks in the Warwickshire countryside in the summer of 1995. In attack, Dwight Yorke provided sparkle, club could make Collymore tick but it became obvious last season that they locked that extra ingredient championship contenders require.

Thus the move for Colly-unpredictability in attack that more. It is said, in some quar- can turn draws into wins.

Collymore was unpredictable week before they meet Atletiall right. Even his biggest de- co Madrid in the Uefa Cup rushed upon Little in May. Perhaps, but Little would surely not tractors did not predict he would have spent £7m on a player he score only four Premiership did not want. The move did apgoals in the first seven months. not one of them a winning one. pear to make sense. Collymore, a Holte Ender as a boy, still lived Little has persisted with him but in his beloved Cannock. If any changed everything else, trying three up front, then two, then again Villa, it seemed, could and switching to four at the back. no one doubts his talent, just its

Nothing has worked, except in Europe where Villa have shown passion, patience and perception. Which makes yesterday an odd time to leave, a was willing - or able - to give. players were not as deadly.

Ince still

is possible

believes title

his team's Premiership title

night's 1-1 Merseyside dertry

side nine points behind the

leaders, Manchester United.

Ince stressed they will not

"What we must cling on to

quarter-finals. It would appear that Ellis and Little, who be signed as an apprentice three decades ago and still maintained a paternal air towards, had an unreconcilable disagreement. Maybe Little, emboldened by the standing ovation he received from the shareholders at Monday night's AGM, demanded more of Ellis financially than the chairman

Maybe Ellis believed Little had run out of ideas to lift the

After Saturday's defeat at for a new set of officials to be Selhurst Park, Wimbledon's appointed for both legs to make players were scathing about Vilsure there is no suspicion of ia. "They don't know how much irregularity. trouble they are in." Jason Euell said: "I think they're going to struggle. They haven't got that killer instinct." No one could accuse Villa's chairman of lacking the killer instinct, it is just a shame that some of the club's

Television footage taken by Canal Plus shows Sundell and several other Swedish officials chatting to Betis fans during Sunday's match. [Sundell] was recognised by some fans and had to put up with their jokes about the result of the forthcoming game," said the Spanish sports

daily Marca yesterday.

Hodgson backs players' 'racism' denial

Barnsley see chance for revenge against weakened United

fifth-round replay as underdogs a side of reserves, they are wear-

yet rational examination of the ing United shirts aren't they?

By Alan Nixon

ROY HODGSON, the Blackburn Rovers manager, defended his players yesterday against points me to talk about it. It dis- are still aggrieved that his red card no elbow involved or no delib- THE Liverpool captain, Paul host the 2006 World Cup, ac- City winger, is discussing perallegations of anti-Semitism appoints me that people think offence has not been changed on erate intent to hit the player that Ince, is refusing to give up on cording to Pele. The double sonal terms with St Johnstone levelled by the West Ham midfielder Eyal Berkovitch.

Hodgson is angry about the furore caused by the Israeli's claims, backed by his manager, Harry Redknapp, that there were racist libes in the recent FA Cup tie between the two sides. Kevin Gallacher, sent off following an altercation with Berkovitch, denied any involvement on Monday.

"I didn't hear anything and I was close to Harry Redknapp in the dug-outs," Hodgson said

ALL BETS will be off if Eng-

land or Scotland win the World

Cup this summer but the nation

has probably already seen its

favourite sporting moment of

His hash of a simple clear-

Trafford launched a million

sniggers and the repercussions

have spread beyond the Danish

goalkeeper's embarrassment. It

Schmeichel 10 days ago.

By Guy Hodgson

not suggesting he didn't. This is a storm in a teacup. It disapperson to discuss it. As far as I'm the incident on tape. concerned this is a football

lous, I'm not interested in that. will be situations where things words in that respect. He will take care of things that may or

may not have occurred."

teams will make them so.

mighty stumbling and few have best squad in the Premiership

hit terra firma as hard as Peter creaks under such circum-

The champions will be with-

out eight players tonight as they

attempt to reach a sixth-round

1998. Britons love witnessing the tie at Newcastle and even the vantage," said John Hendrie,

stances. "We've a bit of reor-

ganising to do." their manager,

ance against Barnsley at Old Alex Ferguson, said. "I hope we added: "When Schmeichel mis-

come up with the right answer."

line Barnsley's inadequacies

more than the 7-0 thrashing at

takes something exceptional for Oki Trafford in the League in Oc-clappers to knock the ball in."

No result seemed to under-

"If he heard it, he heard it, I am eree, Peter Jones, did not mention any abuse in his report.

Both Gallacher and Blackburn it is a subject of attention. It dis- appeal and it emerged that Jones would change things entirely. appoints me as an intelligent has not even been allowed to view

Hodgson said: The real match. The racist talk is ridicu- controversy is that Gallacher was sent off, not what people "In a match between two are alleged to have said. That Premier League sides there is stupid nonsense. We are losing Gallacher for three games get heated. The referee was in for an offence that he did not charge and we did not have commit. We are still angry at that injustice, but we can do nothing about it.

"The referee has had noth-The Football Association ing to do with it. We think the There is no uniformity."

We are under no illusions

about the size of our task, even

though they'll have a weakened

side and we now have home ad-

who scored Barnsley's goal in the

first match because of Schme-

ichel's miskick made for videos.

cued I thought 'What's on

here?. I saw a new chapter

looming in my autobiography,

Barnsley's manager, Danny

and my little legs went like the

Talking about that goal he

in the run-up to tonight's replay. confirmed last night that the refdecided on our appeal.

application. With a Collymore

in form, Villa would have that

We think when he sees the video and reflects that there was

"Only the referee can make that decision and we hope he can be given that chance. Kevin draw with Everton that left his attend a coaching school, said patently did not elbow Berkovitch in the face and

patently did not mean to do it." Gallacher is upset that he has throw in the towel, following suit been singled out while several after his manager, Roy Evans, gave a similar assurance. other similar clashes have gone unpunished recently. Hodgson said: "Kevin has told me of five is the fact that we know we played well, as individuals and incidents he has seen recently as a team," he said. "It's that bewhere no action was taken.

swap it for the lingering expe-

rience of Premiership survival.

It is a feeling shared by second-

from-bottom Crystal Palace,

who will have a home tie against

if they can defeat Arsenal - both

those games are also tonight.

tonight's other replay. The strik-

will test his recovery from a knee

operation, but he could make all

last six League games.

American football

lief we must carry with us as we go into the last 11 games." Ince grabbed the face-saving equaliser to salvage the 1-1 draw against Everton at Antield Oakwell for tonight's FA Cup has come along. So what if it is Wilson, would forgo temporary and believes Liverpool deserved

satisfaction tonight if he could to win. He said: "Looking at the game we could have been three up in the first 10 minutes. Nobody can deny that. If any of those had gone in we would have kicked on and won.

either Blackburn or West Ham "But they got one and then threw away a wonderful chance of a second before I scored, But, Wolves will play Steve Bull at home against Wimbledon in to be frank, for them to have had a 2-0 lead would have been er's first game since November very unjust.

"People will say we played well, and we did. But at the end the difference. Wolves have suf- of the day you must win your fered four 1-0 defeats in their home games if you are going to win the championship.

Pele expects Brazil **World Cup bid**

World Cup winner and Brazilchances, even after Monday ian sports minister, visiting Hong Kong on business and to that if Brazil did not bid for the tournament then he would support an African bid. He said: "Brazil, Argentina, a lot of countries who are in the World

> Cup will probably bid." Brian Laudrup yesterday admitted be indicated to Ajax he would be joining them next season, not Chelsea. The Dutch club's coach, Morten Olsen, is furious that the Rangers player is moving to Stamford Bridge in the summer.

> Laudrup said: "It's true that I gave the impression to Morten four weeks ago that I would choose Aiax. I felt under pressure to do so because I had a feeling that if I didn't act quickly the agreement with Aiax would fall through. I'm sorry to have disappointed him."

> The leader of Real Madrid's most extreme supporters has been banned from sports events for three years and fined five million pesetas (£20,000). Jose Luis Ochaita, leader of the infamous Ultras Sur and a wellknown face at Real football matches, tried to attack Barcelona players at the end of a basketball game last year.

BRAZIL are likely to bid to Gerry McMahon, the Stoke after the clubs agreed an £85,000 fee yesterday. If the Northern Ireland international makes the move, he will join Davide Xausa, a Canadian who signed for the Scottish Premier Division dub yesterday until the end of the season after having his trial at Stoke cancelled.

> Three of Ireland's senior clubs, all Dublin-based, today condemned Clydebank's decision to try to relocate to the Republic. Shelbourne and Bohemians, who finished second and third in the League last season, are vehemently opposed to the proposal as are University College, Dublin.

> Homeless Clydebank, who are attracting an average gate of 286 at Dumbarton's ground, say they have an arrangement to lease the Royal Dublin Society Arena from next season. Shelbourne's secretary, Ollie

Byrne, said: "We are treating Clydebank's proposal as a joke. It hasn't got a dog's chance. It is not a runner and has no credence at all. What this proposal does do is undermine the credibility of the structure of the League of Ireland and that makes me angry. Say Juventus or Milan wanted to leave the Italian League and relocate to Spain, it wouldn't be allowed to happen."

£1.5m Austrian

chooses Leeds

LEEDS UNITED have signed the Austrian Under-21 international Martin Hiden for

£1.5m, writes Alan Nixon. The Rapid Vienna defender, who chose to go to Elland Road over a rival bid from Liverpool, will go straight into the first-team squad and could figure in the FA Cup. He is due to complete the deal today and will

be eligible for the quarter-finals.

Sheffield Wednesday have signed the Everton right-back. Earl Barrett, on a free transfer to replace Ian Nolan, who is out for the season with a broken leg. Barrett, 30, had begun a second loan spell at Sheffield United but was recalled by Everton when Wednesday offered a permanent deal. Barrett, set to make his debut at Derby on Saturday, was signed from Oldham by the current Wednesday manager, Ron Atkinson, six years ago for £1.7m at Aston Villa

Atkinson is also trying to sign Steve Staumon, the Aston Villa and Republic of Ireland defender, on a free transfer at the end of the season, with the lure of a £2m contract. Wednesday can pick up Staunton for nothing when his contract expires, and are willing to pay him around £13,000 a week for three seasons.

from Oldham.

Manchester United to arrive at 1 tober; now a chance of revenge Sporting Digest

McColgan seeks return to winning ways

Athletics

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Salah di

LIZ McCOLGAN has confirmed her entry to the Bupa Great North Run for a fourth successive year and is determined to make up for missing out on a hat-trick of titles.

The Scottish long-distance runner, who first won the event in 1992, added further victories in 1995 and 1996 but slipped to third place last year behind the Kenyan Lucia Subano and her British rival Marian Sutton.

son's Newcastle to South things right this autumn." Shields half-marathon on 4 October, which is expected to attract a record 40,000 entries.

"Last year I felt comfortable in the early stages of the race. I was jogging along feeling great and you can imagine how annoyed I was when I couldn't find the pace to stay with the field," she said.

game makes my job impossible.

McColgan insists she can re- from spectators is tremendous turn to winning ways in this sea- and I owe it to them to put Richard Neturkar returns to

championship cross-country run-

ning in Cardiff on Sunday hoping to seal his place in Britain's team for next month's World Championships in Marrakech. The 34-year-old, who won the English title three times before switching to the marathon, will compete at Bute Park in the "I have a special affection for Reebok UK Championships, the race. The support I receive which is also the world trials.

NBA: Detroit 111 Secremento 85; Chicago 97 Cleveland 75; Charlotte 118 Denver 98; Seattle 101 LA Clippers 100. Griffiths resigns because of power struggles

England coasted to a 3-0 victory against Australia in Sydney to complete a clean sweep in the three-Test saries. Australia won only one of the nine games played in the best-of-three series, with England winning the first Test 3-0 and the second 2-1.

vember's vacant European title chal-lenge in Italy. McCreesh should have been paid between £28-27,000 by Italian promoter Roberto Sabbetini for his bout with Michele Piccifilo in No-vara, a fight which he lost in four rounds and afterwards had to go to been title the treatment to his hadly Anterican Toochail
John Elway, the Deriver Broncos quarterback who led his team to victory in
the Super Bowl last month, had minor
surgery on his right shoulder yesterday and should recover within six
weeks. "It was routine, and it was successful," Paul Kirk, the Broncos
spokesman, sald. Elway, who has not
said whether he will return for his 16th
NET season, will have better range of rounds and atterwards had to go to hospital for treatment to his badly swollen face. To date, McCreesh received around £15,000 in two payments, said Board of Control secretary John Morris today. A promised third payment bringing the amount to £21,000 has still not been received, and Morris is camsaid whether he will return for his 16th NFL season, will have better range of motion and less pain when he throws, the Deriver trainer, Steve Antonopulos, said. Elway, 37, injured the shoulder when he was thrown to the ground during a game in October, but did not report the injury until after the Super Bowl. He has not decided whether to repair a tom biceps muscle in his right arm. The biceps was form during a pre-season game last been received, and Morris is campaigning hard to get McCreesh the rest of his money.

Cricket
The Sri Lankan selectors have retained Anjuna Ranstungs, the man who captained the World Cup winning team two years ago, to lead the country in the forthcoming tour of South Africa. Ranstungs, 35, has often spoken of retiring from first-class cricket, but the Board of Control for Cricket yesterday named him captain of the 16-man-squad for the tour beginning on 3 March.

SRI LANKA SQUAD (for tour of South

March.

SRI LANKA SQUAD (for tour of Bouth
Africa in March): A Panatunga (captain),
A 66 Stva (vice-captan), S Jayasunya, M Asapatin, R Mahaname, H Tillefanatina, R
Kajuwitharama, K Dharmassena, M Muratificaram, C Vass, R Pushpokunara, S de
Sava, M Jayawatdona, R Amold, U Chandana,
P Mill-pressander.

Cycling

The German rider Erik Zabel won the first stage of the Tour of Valencia yesterday after holding off compatriot Marcel Wust at the end of a tough up-Marcel Wust at the end of a tough up-hill sprint. Zabel had appeared to be feding but found new life in the final few metres. The pair had found some breathing space going into the long, final straight and were able to finish clear of the chasing pack led in by Italy's Mario Traversoni. The Tour continues on Wednesday with a 163-

km stage between Calpe and Validigna. The leg includes one sec-and category and five third catego-ry climbs, including the Alta de la Drova hill shortly before the finish. The mountains will prove a challenge to Zabel who last year sprinted to victory in the first stage of the Tour of Andelucia and held on against the odds to win the race.

to win the race.

The American Chad Gertech won the seventh stage of the 1998 Le Tour de Langkawi in Melaysia yeaterday but the Italian Andrea Tati remains the Tour's overall leader. Gertach's trantic sprint in the final 100 metres gave him the edge over Australian Peter Rogers and Filipino Carlo Jasul, who took second and third places, respectively. All three recorded Gertach's winning time of 3 hours 53 minutes and 58 seconds. The seventh stage, which was held in the enth stage, which was held in the southern state of Johor, covered a distance of 176km.

Football

Football

Norwey have named alght Englishbased players in their teem for the
World Cup warm-up match against
France in Marsellies today. The eight
include the entire defence and goelkeeper, as well as the Chelsea striker Tore Andre Fio and the Blackburn
midfielder Lars Bohrnen.
NORWAY (v. France, Mansellies, today):
Grodes (fotentem), Haland (Leeds, Berg
(Manchester United), Lundekvam
(Southampton), Bjørnebys (Lverpoo), Rudi
Shelfish Wachaschy, Bohrber (Backburn),
Stemmelsnud (Bayer Leverburen), Mykland
(Parethinalics), Strandil (Parethinalics), Fio
Chelsea).

Stoke's Mike Macarl is having a trial with the Second Division club, Blackpool, whose manager Nigel Worthington played for the Midlands dub

MONDAY'S LATE RESULTS: FA Carling Premiership: Liverpool 1 Everton 1 GM Vasuchall Conference: Hednestord 1 Famborough 6; Kiddemrister 5 Statybridge 0. Bell's Scottleh League First Division: Herriton 1 St Miren 1 UniBond League Premier Division: Erritely 2 Radicitie Borough 0. Winstonised Kard League First Division: Erith Town 0 Herne Bay 2 Pontine League First Division: Bolton 1 Wolves 0 (at Reebok Stadium). Avon Insurance Combination First Division: Brighton 1 Oxford Utd 1 (at Worthing). International Priendly. Jameica 2 (Goodson 3; Williams 40) Non-Julia I (et Worthing). International Priend-ly: Jameica 2 (Goodson 37, Williams 40) Nig-ne 2 (Yakni 34, Sassa 77) (et Kingston). European Under-16 championahip qual-European Under-1

Ice hockey The Toronto Maple Leafs have agreed a contract extension with their captain, Mats Sundin, that will keep him with their captain, that will keep him with the 2001 season. Terms the team till the 2001 season. Terms were not announced, but The Toronto Sun reported yesterday that the deal could average \$7m (\$46m) to \$8m per

Season. **Rugby Union**

Richard Turner, Moseley's former Coventry scrum-helf, has retired from full-time rugby, providing a fresh set-back for his crisis-ridden Allied Dun-bar Premiership Two club. Chellenham and Gloucester cup Bedford or Bristol v Sale; Lecester v Gloucester. (Matches to be played 21 March).

Squash

Britain will have five of last season's top eight scorers in last season's PSA HI-Tec Super Series in the Equitable Lite Finals at The Galleria in Hatfield which starts tomorrow. The British

in last week to replace Canada's Jo-nathon Power, the world No 3 who has a tom ankle ligament. Jansher Khan of Pakistan, returns to defend the tion Fanciary is the Australia are represented by world champion Rodney Eyles and the world No 8, Anthony Terry Young was the only English qualifier out of three to join the England No 1, Marthew Syed, in the Chatra Open Championships in Joha yesterday. Young reached the main mensuration by the best of the main mensuration.

while Essex's Del Harris was brought

singles competition by bearing Nazel
Hug, of Bangledesh, and Mohammed
Rumehi, of Oater, before overcoming
Denmark's Mads Sorensen 21-19
15-21 21-16. Andre Agessi will represent the Unit-ed Stales in its first-nound Davis Cup World Group match against Russia. The three-day event will be held from

3 to 5 April at the International Ten-nis Center at Stone Mountain, Geor-gia, near Atlanta. gat, near Adanta.
GUARDRAN DIRECT CUP (Battersee Perk,
London) Singles, first round: K Kucera
(Sloven) bi G Racux (F) 5-7 7-6 5-4; F
Dewulf (Bel) bi G Bacux (F) 6-7 7-5; C
Ploine (F) bt F Clavet (Spi 6-1 7-6, F)
Carrota (Cz Rap) bt D Prnosi (Ger) 7-6, 6-7; M
Gustatiscon (Swe) bt B Steven (NZ) 6-7
7-6 6-2; M Gustatiscon (Swe) bt B T Johansson
(Swe) 6-3 6-2.

ADVANTA CHAMPIONSHIPS (Philade

WTA TOUR (Linz, Aut) First round: L. Raymond (US) bt M Sanchez-Larenzo (So) 6-26-3. A Gensei (CZ Repl) bit K Habszulova (Sovak) 7-6 ret: S Farma (II) bt Y Bazuki (Indul) 6-3 6-4; A Maurtamo (Fr) bt A Carlsson (Swe) 6-7-6; M Maleyar (John (Swe) 6-7-6; M M Maleyar (John (Swe) 6-

THE troubled world of snooker entered a new chapter vesterday when Terry Griffiths, the former world champion, quit his £50,000-a-year post as director sition. I am bitterly disappointof coaching with the game's goveming body, the World Professional Billiards and Snooker Association. He had held the position for the past two years.

Snooker

political problems within the clined to elaborate on his future game will soon be resolved."

Trying to deal with the Associais difficult enough. But just late- out of office at an extraordinary ly the current horrific situation has left me in an untenable poed but I had no alternative. Since my appointment my work has been disrupted by power struggles within the game."

Griffiths said: "The continued at his first attempt in 1979, de-

ideal candidate for chairman tion under normal circumstances should Rex Williams be voted general meeting in Bristol next Wednesday. Last night his employers paid tribute to Griffiths, saying:

plans. However, he would be an

"We are naturally concerned about the reasons he gave for his resignation. We will be making Griffiths, world champion every effort to persuade him that the current problems within the

Bowls

tom during a pre-season game last year but did not bother Elway during

N-U and the second 2-1. Thisles: Thisles: Thisles: Thisles: Togard (J Ottaway, 7 Alcock and A Thomson) bt Australia (K Karkow, 5 Glasson, M Jacobsen) 4-2 2-10 8-26-3, Paire: Ottaway and Thomson (Eng) bt Glasson and Jecossen (Aus) 9-36-7-88-3. Singles: Alcock (Eng) bt Kerkow (Aus) 7-4 7-2 7-5. England bt Australia 3-0.

Geoff McCreesh, the British welter-weight champion, is insisting on in-terest being added to a purse he has still to receive in full from last No-

Watford have signed the Republic of Ireland Under-21 striker Dominic Foley on a month's loan from Wolver-

World No 1, Peter Nicol, Welsh No 1, Alex Gough and Lincolnshire's Mark Chaloner made the field by right

champion Simon Parke comes into the eight-man field to replace Ahmed Barada. The Egyptian world No 5 has withdrawn because of flu. Scotland's

AUVANTA CHAMPIONSHIPS (Philadel-phila) Singles, first round: G Striftont (SA) bt R Fromberg (Aust) 7-6 7-6; T Martan (LIS) bt B Black (Zim) 6-7-8; M Safin (Fus) bt W Black (Zim) 6-1 2-8 6-3; S Lareau (Can) bt T Nydath (Swe) 6-4 6-3; F Meligern (Br) bt J A Viloca (Sp) 7-6 6-5; A Gaudenzi (III) bt D Sanguhetti (III) 4-8 6-4 6-3.

Re Little goes after Ellis summons

this seaso

referees

Paul

Football Cor By Catherine Riley and THE refer Chris Maume longer alwa BRIAN LITTLE'S troubled is wrong. T

season with Aston Villa came to philosophy a premature and sensational mier Leag sion to post as the club's manager. Gallagher Although it was first an- said. mance. He lish refere the sport's

Football

nounced that Little had gone voluntarily, it later emerged that he may have been forced Those but the lik as referee

statement yesterday evening, things it did not mention. The Villa chairman did not say he made any attempt to persuade Little to stay. "I am sad and disappointed to announce that Briend yesterday when he left his an Little has resigned as manager of Aston Villa forthwith," Ellis

"We are in the process of securing the services of another team manager, but in the meaninto resigning by the Villa time Allan Evans and the chairman, Doug Ellis, who has coaching staff of Kevin Macsometimes enjoyed less than Donald, Tony McAndrew, Malcordial relations with the pro- colm Beard and Paul Barron cession of managers during will be in charge. We wish Brihis 23-year tenure at Villa Park an the best of luck in whatever and has earned the nickname he chooses to do in the future."

main reason for being there was ther comment. to have treatment on an injury he sustained playing tennis.

Later, Little turned up at Vilthat point was apparently unaware of a summons from Ellis. He apologised to the co Madrid next Thesday. journalist upon his arrival at Villa Park, saying he would be 30 minutes late for their talk.

When he did reappear, he was grim-faced and refused to answer any questions about what had happened in the meeting with Ellis, other than to say that any other comments the Aston Villa Shareholders' would have to come from the Association, Buck Chinn, said: Villa captain, has been out of chairman. He immediately left

which was more telling for the thought that the chairman's also declined to make any fur-

Little's departure comes after Villa's 2-1 defeat at Wimbledon on Saturday, which left la Park for an interview and at the club 15th in the Premier League and facing a Uefa Cup quarter-final first leg at Atleti-Only on Monday evening

> shareholders after he had a long and frank discussion with Villa supporters concerned about the club's position.

"I feel very much that he has

Little had received a standing

ovation from a meeting of

he spoke to a shareholders' association meeting and sat down to a standing ovation. He answered questions for over two hours. He needn't have, he could have refused. But he spoke frankly and openly about the club and his feelings here. I am completely shocked. I had no indication that this was go-

served from the club. Last night

Two former Villa players, Bruce Rioch and David Platt, head the list of possible candidates to succeed Little - him-Last night, the chairman of self a former player at the club - as manager. Rioch, a former the game since he was sacked

ing to happen."

He proved his managerial credentials during stints at Middlesbrough and Bolton, and in side Villa Park last night. his one season with Arsenal, he took them into Europe.

Platt, a former England captain, knows that his days as a player at Highbury are coming to an end. The midfielder was linked with Southampton in the West Midlands for him would prove popular with Villa fans, especially as he was the inspiration behind the side which finished second in the League in 1990.

Rand Gullit will presumably be looking for a new club after his recent acrimonious split with Chelsea, but his wage

Ellis read out a prepared day morning at the club's train- Villa Park, apparently shocked been hounded out and has not as assistant manager of Queen's demands could prove a potenstement yesterday evening into assistant manager of Queen's demands could prove a potening ground, although it was by the morning's events. Ellis received the support he dethought that the absince is a sassistant manager of Queen's demands count plots. However, it is standing block. However, it is sta he was the popular choice of shocked fans congregating out-

Walter Smith, who is leaving Rangers in the summer, has expressed a desire to manage in the Premiership and may have the right credentials for Ellis. Villa, though, would have to wait until the end of the season summer, but a return to the to secure his services, which may count against him.

John Toshack has long been touted for a return to the English game after his success in the League with Swansea City. The former Real Madrid coach, who had a short spell in charge of Wales, is currently managing



Little: Standing ovation

could be persuaded to return to Britain.

Steve Bruce is another possible candidate as, like Platt, he is a player nearing the end of his career and looking to enter management. The former Manchester United defender is set to agree a new deal with Birmingham, but would surely be interested in a club of the stature of Villa

Glenn Moore, page 27

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Gu

K Injury puts th Fowler's **World Cup** in doubt

GLENN HODDLE last night offered a message of hope to gain both fitness and justify a Robbie Fowler as the Liver- place in the squad. So far, Hodpool striker prepared for surgery dle has only picked him twice after suffering a severe knee in- and, although he scored both jury during Monday night's Pre- times, he was left out of the squad

The England coach insisted

his club that he will be out until medial ligaments and damaging the cartilage in his left knee.

minute collision with the Everton goalkeeper, Thomas Myhre. will be operated on once the swelling subsides.

I saw the incident on television tinued. last night," Hoddle said. "It is form in recent games. He reacted absolutely as.I hoped to his exclusion from the squad.

assistant] has spoken to his father and I am looking forward to speaking to Robbie myself. We all wish him well. If the operation is as successful as we hope it will be and he recovers quickly, we believe he still might be available for the summer."

That must, however, be unlikely as Fowler may need two operations and will then need to

Fowler was still in his World marked his second England Cup plans, despite fears from start under the current coach by scoring in the 2-0 Wembley September after tearing the win over Cameroon, but since then he has found the net just five times in 16 games for Liv-Fowler was injured in a last- erpool, failing to score a single Premiership goal in 1998.

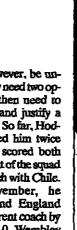
"I knew it was serious when fortune in front of goal has con-

Fowler was also capped five reer began as part of England's Under-18 European Championship-winning team in 1993, "John Gorman [Hoddle's when he ended up leading scorer with five goals. He scored on his B-team debut against the Republic of Ireland in 1994. He made his full debut in March 1996, coming on for the last 14 minutes against Bulgaria.

However, Fowler's interna-

miership match with Everton. for the recent match with Chile. Only in November, he

Fowler, bitterly disappoint-He is currently in hospital and ed at being left out of the Chile squad, hoped to prove his point to Hoddle, although his lack of



land manager, Terry Venables, meet South Africa and Poland, extremely hard to recover his although his international ca- and also pulled out of the side

tional career looked to be in

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

to play in France's Le Tournoi in order to undergo and oper- strike partner, Michael Owen.

ation on his adenoids. Hoddle questioned why Fowler could not have had the operation earlier in the season while he was suspended, and said at the time: "This could cost Robbie Fowler a place in the World Cup squad."

Hoddle does have alternatives, but with Chris Sutton

STAMPEDE MANDO E P E I U E P THEORISE OPTANE S M I A H C R TRANSEPT CAMAPE O N H E A B C TRANSENT

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jeopardy when he fell out with having ruled himself out, Les more acute. The point from the process. He has also faced prob-Hoddle last May by dropping Ferdinand perpetually injured draw with Everton left them in lems off the field as well, with Last May be dropping to the field as well as a field with the field with the field with the field wit sad and wretched luck for Rob-times under the previous Eng-out of the England squads to and Ian Wright also having problems with form and fitness, they are diminishing, despite the emergence of Fowler's Anfield

> This may open the door for Coventry's Dion Dublin, who made his international debut against Chile, Andy Cole, currently in form for Manchester United and even Paul Merson, who has been rejuvenated since his move from Arsenal to Middlesbrough.

Liverpool's problems are

ioint second place with Arsenal in the league, but with the loss of Fowler, their attacking options are limited to just Owen, who their manager, Roy Evans. was hoping to be able to rest, and Karlheinz Riedle. Evans may have to buy to maintain their challenge for both the

ons' League place. The possibility of returning as a third-choice striker will further depress Fowler during the long and painful rehabilitation

Championship and a Champi-

reports - fiercely denied - that he had been the subject of blackmail attempts and other suggestions that he was demanding a huge pay increase to £50,000 a week during his current negotiations for a new contract to replace the one which expires next summer.

But now any chance he had of earning a place on the flight to France seems to have disappeared with an injury which saw him pay the price for not giving up on a lost cause.

RISING DAMP?

CONDENSATION?

Talk to the specialists

ABEL BALBO, Roma's though he may buy again this sea-Argentinian striker, could be son, especially if Southampton's heading to Stamford Bridge to ioin Gianluca Vialli's new-look Chelsea side next season. Corriere dello Sport says Roma are ready to sell the 31-year-old

former international for £3m. The Arsenal manager, Arsène Wenger, said yesterday that al-

System will tackle it. The near

Abbey since 1932!

Kevin Davies and Metz's Robert Pires become available, he is close to the side he wants.

"We do not need much more to make us a very good side," the Frenchman said. "The next two and a half months will really show how good we are."

Ashton abandons Ireland to their fate gether they turned the club ton wanted the authority to into the most successful in Eng-

land. League and Cup doubles

England job in 1994, Ashton

was promoted and he and Bath

resumed normal service, main-

taining a phenomenal run of

success. Despite the fact that he

is hugely rated in the game.

England, after parting compa-

ny with Rowell, made no move

Since rugby went profes-

When Rowell took over the

were their speciality.

for Ashton.

Rugby union By Tim Glover

BRIAN ASHTON has resigned as coach of Ireland, a couple of weeks into an increasingly fragmented and fractious Five Nations' Championship. Less than 12 months after

signing a six-year contract, the 50-year-old Lancastrian has had enough of what looks like an unfair struggle in the Fair

"I have decided to resign, with regret, for personal reasons," Ashton said. Under his charge, Ireland have won only one Five Nations match, beating Wales in Cardiff last season, but the Englishman had to stomach a record 46-6 defeat to England in Dublin. The Irish lost to New Zealand and Italy and, two weeks ago, opened the Championship with a defeat by Scotland at Lansdowne Road. It has left the Irish with the prospect of the wooden spoon and they already have

a drawer full of them, Since losing to Scotland, Ashton has been suffering from shingles and was unable to supervise the national squad last

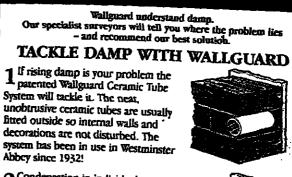
sioned with the task and he did not exactly get on with Pat comment on team selection and more say in the awarding

of players' contracts. It is understood that although his contract required him to serve six months' notice, the IRFU waived it. Niall Brophy, the IRFU president, said: "The Union regrets Brian Ashton's resignation. I thank him for his contribution to Irish rugby and wish him well."

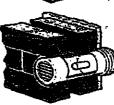
For rugby coach, read soccer manager; the job is becoming increasingly precarious. Scotland have already dispensed with Richie Dixon and David Johnston and last week Leicester sacked Bob Dwyer and London Irish removed Willie Anderson.

It is possible that Leicester are interested in Ashton and Ireland in Anderson although the word in Dublin is that the front-runners are the New Zealander Warren Gatland and the Welshman Mike Ruddock. Gatland, an understudy of the All Blacks hooker Sean Fitzpatrick, brought the best out of Connacht in the European Conference and Ruddock has made a favourable impression with Leinster.

Sympathy for Ashton has been tempered by the timing of his departure - Ircland face an exceptional French team in Paris on Saturday week and are



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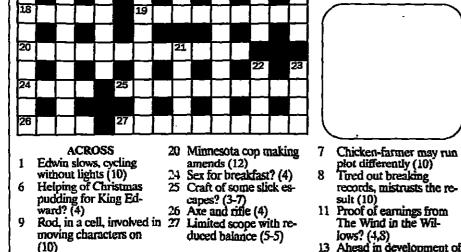
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10 Blast, perhaps, from copper vessel (4) 12 The Haydn symphony driving hamsters loco?

15 To make fresh point,

18 Rough cider called (5)

19 Biting trendy starters with delight (9)

raise tone once again (8) 17 Given rough coat of plaster that is pitched (5)

Central band in Tallow, an old village (4) Informer in northern safe

place (4) Commend a fine novel - one about two itinerant farmworkers (2,4,3,3) Lady-love thrown over by cowboy? (5)

ist's meeting, makes ap-

pearance (9)

plot differently (10) Tired out breaking records, mistrusts the re-11 Proof of earnings from

lows? (4,8)
13 Ahead in development of firm in valued environment (10) 14 Magi static, unfortunate-

ly, with eye trouble (10) 16 K-news agency in opium deal (9) 21 Small child given a long

Old Chester seen in Whitsuntide vacation (4) Doctor, long in spiritual- 23 Man, say, lies when in

especially on a long-term con- from the Irish Rugby Football tract, appeared to be something of a coup for the Irish. In 1989 the schoolteacher teamed up mately accountable for the

sional in 1995, Ireland, Wales and Scotland have struggled to keep in touch with England and France. One of the reasons is that many of the leading Celts have been recruited to England's Premiership in which

the standards and competition, as well as salaries, are higher. Ashton had bases in Ireland and the West Country and felt the need to commute back and forth across the Irish Sea. It is understood he became disillu-

Whelan, the team manager, like a house on fire. "I'm English, Pat's Irish. I'm a professional, he's an amateur," Ashton remarked recently. He The appointment of Ashton, was seeking more autonomy Union, who make the manuger, rather than the coach, ultiwith Jack Rowell at Bath and to-performances of the team. Ash-

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